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PLO must be included in peace talks

Arafat 'ready to recognise' Israel

NEW YORK, March 6. (Agencies): Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday he could accept UN resolutions on implicit recognition of Israel but said the PLO must be included in Middle East peace talks.

Asked in a US television interview at his Tunis headquarters whether the PLO would unequivocally recognise Israel's right to exist, Arafat said "definitely."

He said he could accept United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 which call for the return of the occupied territories in exchange for implicit Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

Accept

"I am accepting all the United Nations resolutions including 242 and 338," said Arafat, who has previously spoken of accepting the resolutions but has not elaborated on how such acceptance would take effect.

Arafat added that the PLO would accept a move to place the West Bank and Gaza, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, under UN supervision while Israel and Arab nations negotiate on a permanent settlement of the issue.

"We can accept easily the United Nations auspices for a short period of time as a transitional period. We can understand the need of the Israelis and the American administration for this transitional period," he said.

Arafat said in the CBS news interview that no Middle East peace solution could be achieved without PLO participation and that US and PLO officials must meet directly, which is currently



Arafat

against US policy. US Secretary of State George Shultz has just completed a 10-day mission to the region to promote an American peace plan and met with leaders of several Arab nations.

Deal

"He has to deal with the leadership of the PLO," Arafat said, adding there would be "no solutions — no settlements" without such a meeting.

The Shultz plan falls well short of Palestinian demands for an independent state and a purported text published in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Aharonot made no mention of the PLO.

"The following is the text of the letter, signed by Shultz, according to the Yedioth Aharonot: 'The agreed objective is a comprehensive peace providing for the security of all the states in the region and for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.'

"Negotiations will start on an early date certain between Israel and each of its neighbours which

is willing to do so. These negotiations could begin by May 1, 1988. Each of these negotiations will be based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, in all their parts. The parties to each bilateral negotiation will determine the procedure and agenda of their negotiation. All participants in the negotiations must state their willingness to negotiate with one another.

Concerns

"As concerns negotiations between the Israeli delegation and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations, negotiations will begin on arrangements for a transitional period, with the objective of completing them within six months. Seven months after transitional negotiations begin, final status negotiations will begin, with the objective of completing them within one year. These negotiations will be based on all the provisions and principles of United Nations Security Council resolution 242.

"Final status talks will start before the transitional period begins. The transitional period will begin three months after the conclusion of the transitional agreement and will last for three years. The United States will participate in both negotiations and will promote their rapid conclusion. In particular, the United States will submit a draft agreement for the parties' consideration at the outset of the negotiations on transitional arrangements.

"Two weeks before the opening of negotiations, an international conference will be held. The secretary-general of the United Nations will be asked to issue invitations to the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the five permanent

(Continued on Page 2)

Two more Palestinians killed

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 6. (Agencies): Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinian teenagers in the occupied West Bank today, hospital officials said.

Palestinians said soldiers shot dead Khaled Al Ardah, 17, when they fired live ammunition after rubber bullets and tear gas failed to disperse protesters at Askar refugee camp.

A spokeswoman at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital said Al Ardah died after being shot in the head.

In Mazra Al Sharquiye village, near Ramallah, troops shot 18-year-old Ayman Salim Ajak, who died later in hospital. Palestinian and hospital sources said.

Injured

They said another Palestinian was injured by Army gunfire during violent protests in the village. The killings raised the unofficial death toll to at least 86 Palestinians since the start of an anti-Israeli uprising 12 weeks ago in the West Bank and occupied Gaza Strip.

At a military court in Jaffa, an Army captain and two soldiers were charged with brutality for beating two handcuffed Palestinians. They were arrested last month after a US television crew filmed them kicking their prisoners and pounding them with rocks.

The film, seen by television viewers worldwide, prompted fresh criticism of Israel's handling of the uprising. Military sources said two other soldiers were released pending disciplinary hearings.

Scattered

Palestinian and hospital sources reported other injuries in scattered unrest. Nabius hospital staff in the West Bank said two teenagers from nearby Balata camp were treated for fractures caused by club-wielding soldiers.

Troops fired at Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied Gaza Strip wounding at least three people, Palestinian sources said.

(Continued on Page 2)



Junejo (right) and Benazir exchanging remarks at the start of the Pakistani Premier's meeting with political opponents on a proposed UN-mediated Afghan peace accord. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pakistan delays decision on Afghan peace accord

ISLAMABAD, March 6. (Reuters): Pakistan sent its negotiator back to Geneva today to resume talks on the Afghan conflict but withheld a decision on signing a proposed peace accord.

The UN-mediated indirect talks between Pakistan and the Soviet-backed Afghan government are to resume tomorrow after a two-day recess, during which the Pakistan government consulted leading opposition politicians.

A statement after the two-day conference at Rawalpindi near Islamabad quoted Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo as saying he would decide what to do in the "national interest."

A Junejo aide promised an early decision but there was no official word when it would be made.

Briefing

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zaio Noorani left for Geneva via Moscow after briefing the conference about the talks, where he leads the Pakistan delegation.

Before leaving, he parried reporters who asked whether he would meet any Soviet official on the way. "I am going to Geneva, that's all," he said.

He also declined to speak to reporters about the latest position of Pakistan, which wants a

neutral transitional government in Afghanistan before signing any accord.

But Abdul Sattar, Secretary of Foreign Ministry hinted today that Pakistan might sign an accord with Afghanistan on a Soviet troop withdrawal before the establishment of an interim government in Kabul.

Sattar, in an interview given to London weekend television said this was not a shift in Pakistan's policy after a first round of UN-mediated talks in Geneva aimed at ending the nine-year Afghan conflict.

Offered

"The (Geneva) dialogue is continuing and the decision has to be made, ruling Pakistan Muslim League Party Secretary General Iqbal Ahmad Khan told reporters.

Moscow has offered to withdraw an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan within nine months if the settlement is signed by March 15.

Most of the 19 party leaders invited to the conference advised the government not to delay signing. The conference statement said Junejo assured them their views would be carefully considered and vetted before his government took a "final decision on this very vital national issue."

The strongest plea for an early

settlement came from main opposition figure Benazir Bhutto, who said withdrawal of Soviet troops was the first priority.

Benazir, whose Pakistan People's Party is the main force in the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), said it was not for outsiders to decide the nature or complexion of an Afghan government.

She said if a deal between the superpowers "leads to the settlement of the Afghan issue then we welcome it." The United States and the Soviet Union have both agreed to guarantee a settlement.

Nearly complete agreement has already been reached at the six-year-old Geneva talks through UN mediator Diego Cordovez.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said in Geneva on Thursday: "From our side the agreement could be considered finalised."

Pakistan plays host to about three million of the Afghan refugees and most of the Western-backed guerrilla groups fighting the Kabul government.

An alliance of six main Pakistan-based guerrilla parties have rejected Kabul's invitation to join a coalition with President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party.

Man holds family hostage

A MAN held his 15-member family hostage, while firing at road and seriously injuring one of his neighbours. The man had fired at his colleagues at his place of employment on Saturday morning, but no injuries were reported, it said incident.

A Kuwait Interior Ministry source said that Farraj Nasser Farraj, a Kuwaiti, fled from his work on Saturday after firing at colleagues and went to his home in the Firdous area where he then held his family hostage.

Securitymen, rushing to the scene, attempted to persuade him to surrender. Efforts continued throughout the night, but Farraj refused to give up and fired at random.

The source said Farraj had not presented any demands nor explained the reason for his behaviour. Securitymen have his house surrounded and are attempting to deal quietly with Farraj in order not to risk the lives of the children and other family members.

Farraj continues to refuse to negotiate with the securitymen or to speak to anyone.

Bangladesh censors polls report

DHAKA, March 6. (Reuters): The Bangladesh government blanked out today a foreign newspaper's account of general elections held here last week.

A senior government official said a three-paragraph news agency report appearing in the International Herald Tribune had been blacked out on orders of the Home Ministry.

Each copy of yesterday's edition, which arrived in Bangladesh a day late, had the page two item scored out in black ink. Some were still legible, however.

Marked

Parliamentary elections last Thursday, which the ruling Jatiya Party won by an overwhelming majority, were marked by widespread allegations of vote-rigging and violence.

Jatiya Party has won more than three-fourths of the seats in parliamentary elections marked by bloodshed and charges of vote fraud.

Results from 279 constituencies gave Jatiya 238 seats, the Election Commission said today.

After the polls closed, Home Minister Abdul Matia told a news conference that Bangladesh reporters were free to write about what they had seen as long as they were objective.

But journalists, claiming their papers had received closure threats, went on strike on Friday in protest against what they said were curbs on reporting election violence.

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پاکستان ساحل پر دو ہیلیکاپٹر کا مشورہ کر کے، حکومت کو

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ایران عراق میں شہروں کی جنگ بڑھ گئی

بھارت میں پنجاب اسمبلی توڑ دی گئی

میتھس پر سفیات

WEATHER

CLOUDY weather with light variable to light southeasterly wind. State of sea: slight. High water: 2.00 am, 2.00 pm. Low water: 8.00 am, 8.30 pm. Sunrise: 5.05 am. Sunset: 5.50 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 17°C 63°F. Ahmadi: 17°C 63°F. Fahlaka: 16°C 61°F. Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F. Ahmadi: 19°C 66°F. Fahlaka: 19°C 66°F. Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 8°C 46°F. Ahmadi: 11°C 52°F. Fahlaka: 11°C 52°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 61 per cent. Ahmadi: 56 per cent. Fahlaka: 65 per cent. Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 65 per cent. Ahmadi: 70 per cent. Fahlaka: 75 per cent.

American helicopters in Gulf fired on

MANAMA, March 6. (AP): American helicopters drew machinegun fire from an oil platform and some unidentified small boats in the central Gulf early today, US officials said. The aircraft took "evasive action" and did not return the fire, they said.

The incident occurred some 25 hours after a US warship, on patrol duty farther north, laid down a barrage of gunfire at two radar contacts believed to be Iranian speedboats moving toward one of the Navy's offshore supply barges.

The two shooting encounters came amid one of the longest sustained periods of quiet since the Gulf's so-called "tanker war" began four years ago. There have been no reported attacks on shipping by either Iraq or Iran since Feb 12.

Declined

US officials declined to identify the oil platform involved in today's incident other than to say it was "in the central Gulf." They said, however, that it was not the Rostam platform, the target of shelling by US destroyers last October in a retaliatory raid for an Iranian missile strike that hit the US-flagged tanker Sea Isle City at Kuwait.

Reporters at a Pentagon news media pool aboard the US missile frigate Simpson quoted the skipper, Cmdr. James McTigue, as saying the helicopters were on "routine reconnaissance" over the Gulf when the firing occurred.

Supported

McTigue said the helicopters, which were flying ahead of the northbound Simpson and under its operational control, took "evasive action" during the three-minute incident and did not return fire.

He identified one helicopter as an SH-60B Seahawk, a so-called "Lamps" craft based aboard warships. US forces in the Gulf are supported by an array of aircraft, including heavily armed

(Continued on Page 2)

Iraq, Iran step up war of cities

BAGHDAD, March 6. (Agencies): Iraq fired more missiles into Tehran today in one of the most concentrated barrages of its week-old rocket war with Iran.

A military spokesman reported five missiles had been launched at the Iranian capital and said Iraqi jets bombed targets in 12 other Iranian towns and cities. He said the air raids caused widespread destruction but gave no details.

Iraq has now reported launching 38 missiles at Tehran since the two countries, at war since September 1980, resumed air and missile attacks on cities on February 27.

The spokesman said Iraq would maintain its assaults "so long as Iran insists on rejecting the UN Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire in the Gulf war and continues to bombard Iraqi cities."

A communique described the raids as "part of the devastating operations in retaliation for Iranian crimes against our cities and people."

A spokesman said earlier that an unspecified number of Iraqis were killed or wounded in an Iranian missile attack on Baghdad, in an air raid on the northern town of Arbil and in shelling of the city of Basra and several border towns.

Iran said it launched two missiles into Baghdad and four into other Iraqi cities, including Basra in the south, while Iranian warplanes bombed four cities or towns.

The Iraqi war communique said large numbers of Iraqi planes bombed military

camp and industrial targets in the Iranian towns of Ilam, Barjerd, Sanandaj, Mandohar, Marivan, Saqqez and Zenjan in retaliation.

Iran's national news agency Irna said the Iranian missile fired at Baghdad was aimed at the headquarters of the Iraqi Air Force. Reporters who drove past the building saw no evidence of damage.

A military spokesman said the missile hit a residential area, killing or wounding civilians and damaging houses, cars and other property.

He also said civilians were killed or wounded when an Iranian jet bombed Arbil. Residents of the town, contacted by telephone, said the bombs fell in a residential area.

Damage

The spokesman said Iranian long-range artillery shelled the southern city of Basra, the central border town of Kahriz and several other border towns, causing extensive damage and human losses. He did not give the number of casualties.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said in a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday that Iraq was justified in attacking military and economic targets in Iran in retaliation for Iranian attacks on its civilians.

In a similar protest to the United Nations, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati accused Iraq of inhuman and belligerent acts and of disregarding international conventions against bombing civilian centres, Irna reported.

Khomeini backs Rafsanjani

LONDON, March 6. (Kuna): Ayatollah Khomeini has secretly approved Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament as the country's next President, according to a report.

The decision, taken largely at the behest of Khomeini's son, Ahmed, puts Rafsanjani in a leading position to replace the

nation's religious leader when he dies, the Observer newspaper said.

Rafsanjani has already approached Khomeini directly to secure his approval.

However, the Observer believed that relations between the West and Iran could improve as a result.

US seeks Chinese pledge on silkworms

WASHINGTON, March 6. (AP): The United States will consider lifting a trade sanction against China if a high level envoy provides firm assurances this week that the Chinese will not send silkworm missiles to Iran, a senior US official said.

It will be a key issue when China's Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian meets President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz tomorrow and on Tuesday, during the Chinese official's first visit to Washington in four years.

Last October, after Chinese-built silkworm missiles fired by Iran hit two ships in the Gulf, the United States announced a halt in a decade-old process of liberalising the types of high technology American companies could sell to China.

Since then, China has said it has halted its participation in sales of silkworms to Iran, and the US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "our information is that they've been living up to that."

Tamil rebels intensify attacks

COLOMBO, March 6. (AP): Tamil militants killed two Indian soldiers in an ambush in northern Sri Lanka and captured three others today, Sri Lankan military officials said.

The officials, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity, said the attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam occurred near the town of Vavuniya, 215 kilometres (130 miles) northeast of Colombo.

The soldiers were travelling in a jeep to a nearby camp when they were attacked, the officials said.

India's state-run radio said that a search had been mounted.

On Saturday, 26 villagers died when their truck hit a land mine apparently planted by Tamil rebels. Most of the victims were members of the island's majority Sinhalese community.

Three other victims of the blast were reported in critical condition in Sri Lankan hospitals today.

UK team arrives

A British parliamentary delegation arrived in Kuwait last night on an official visit in the context of a fact-finding Gulf tour.

It was the second move in three days that appeared to be aimed at placating the militants.

On Friday, Rajiv's government released five Sikh high priests from jail, including one who had been detained since 1984.

The government on Friday also freed 40 Sikh militants.

CONDOLENCES

The Management and Staff of the Greenline Co.

express their heartfelt condolences to Mr. Paul A. Kebbe on the sad demise of his beloved mother

in Beirut

MRS. CATHERINE A. KEBBE

May her soul rest in peace.

INTERNATIONAL

I will return
to Egypt
for trial:

Nasser's son

CAIRO, March 6, (Reuters): The son of the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser said in remarks published today he would return from self-exile to face trial for attacks on Israeli and US officials.

"My decision to return is final. It is not reasonable for me to spend the rest of my life away from Egypt," Khaled Abdel Nasser, 38, was quoted as saying in an interview with Cairo's Sawt Al Arab weekly.

Advised

Nasser, now in Belgrade, said Egyptian lawyers had advised him to delay his return until hearings started.

No date has been set for the start of the trial. Prosecutors are seeking death sentences for Nasser and 10 others accused of responsibility for killing two Israeli diplomats, wounding another and trying to kill two US embassy security officials since May 1984.

In another interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, Nasser said he considered the charges against him an honour.

"I don't find any real charge able to discredit me or any of the accused ... all of the charges against me or others, if they are correct, are an honour to any sincere Egyptian," he said.

Nasser, accused of criminal complicity and financing a group called "Egypt's Revolution", dismissed suggestions that attacks by the clandestine group could be dubbed terrorism.

Terrorism

"I am against terrorism because the bullets of terrorism have no targets," he told Sawt Al Arab in his first interview published in Egypt.

He said he had rejected offers of sanctuary by several Arab leaders, including Libya's Muammar Khaddafi.

"I have not, and will never, seek political asylum. My only sanctuary is Egypt," he said.

His father, who led the 1952 revolution which toppled Egypt's monarchy and ruled until he died in 1970, was revered throughout the Arab world as a nationalist leader.

Responding to press reports that he had been advised by officials to leave Egypt before investigations began last September, Khaled said his departure for medical treatment had been scheduled much earlier.

Confirm

Nasser, who taught engineering at Cairo University, said he could not confirm reports in the Cairo press that the United States was pressing Yugoslavia to hand him over to Egypt.

He said he was not seeking power or leadership and had no hard feelings against the Egyptian government.

"Leadership is not a property to inherit, sell or buy. I have not, for one moment, had any illusions about deserving leadership."

Day-long protests against arrest of monk

Three killed in Tibet riot

PEKING, March 6, (Reuters): At least three people were killed yesterday during day-long protests in Lhasa against the arrest of a monk who shouted a pro-independence slogan. Western sources in the Tibetan capital said.

The death toll may be as high as nine, according to the sources who spoke from the Chinese-ruled region today before telephone lines were cut.

Hurled

The demonstrations erupted after the monk's arrest in mid-morning and thousands of Tibetans attacked cars and threw stones at buildings. Police responded with tear gas during daylight but after dark gunfire was heard, the sources said.

The official China News Service said Buddhist monks

hurled stone slabs from a monastery roof to smash vans from Tibet's television station, whose crews were filming the final ceremonies of the region's biggest Buddhist festival.

The agency, which made no mention of deaths, said smoke billowed from the square in central Lhasa and a photograph published in Hong Kong newspapers today showed helmeted firemen apparently fighting the fire.

At least six people were killed in Tibet last October in protests against rule by Beijing, which sent in troops in 1950 and ended government by a theocratic Buddhist elite.

The sources said Lhasa was calm today and that a plane due to leave for Beijing this morning was still in Lhasa.

Officials at Beijing airport said

the plane was delayed due to bad weather in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, where it stops en route to Beijing. Residents of Chengdu said the weather there was normal.

Telephone operators in Beijing said this afternoon the lines to Lhasa from Beijing were bad.

"They are not working. It is hard to say when they will be working. It could be several days," one said.

Peking's main official news agency, the New China News Agency, reported yesterday that "a number of agitators, against the wishes of the local residents and lamas (monks), shouted reactionary slogans and attacked a police station and the office of the Tibetan branch of the Buddhist association beating up police and destroying vehicles."

The People's Daily today

carried a brief account of the latest unrest on its back page, saying the situation was soon brought under control.

It said more than 20,000 people took part in the final ceremonies of the Buddhist festival, which proceeded as planned yesterday afternoon.

In New Delhi, the Tibetan Youth Congress issued a statement today saying that "the demonstration was inevitable" in Lhasa because of continuing Chinese repression of the Tibetans.

The group called on the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to Lhasa and for world support for Tibetan independence. The Youth Congress is affiliated with the Dalai Lama, the Tibetans' spiritual leader who has lived in exile in India since 1959.



Supporters of Bush cheer their candidate (not pictured) during the South Carolina primary campaign. (Reuters wirephoto)

Vice-President gets a boost before Super Tuesday

Bush wins in South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C., March 6, (Reuters): Campaign strategists for Vice-President George Bush said today his decisive triumph in the South Carolina primary is a sign of things to come in the March 8 "Super Tuesday" voting.

"South Carolina is the gateway to Super Tuesday. This is just what we needed," Bush campaign manager Lee Atwater told reporters after the Vice-President crushed Senate minority leader Robert Dole and former evangelist Pat Robertson.

Bush won 48 per cent of the votes in the hotly-contested race, compared to 21 per cent for Dole and 19 per cent for Robertson. New York congressman Jack Kemp, who seems to be on the verge of quitting the race, had 12 per cent.

Convention

Republicans in 17 states will select 753 of their 2,277 national convention delegates on Tuesday and Bush is hoping to win the vast majority in the southern dominated voting.

Democrats in 20 states will choose 1,307 of their party's 4,162 national delegates that day. A dozen southern states and two southern border states hold primaries in both parties.

Primary elections, part of the presidential selection process,

are held in individual states so that voters can select delegates to support their preferred candidates at the national party convention in the summer.

Recent polls show the Vice-President leading Dole by a margin of better than two-to-one in the states voting on Tuesday. Robertson is a distant third.

A repeat of yesterday's performance could give Bush a virtual lock on the nomination.

Contest

Robertson, a native southerner who once vowed to win the contest in "my backyard," told supporters he would do better on Super Tuesday.

"I'm extremely optimistic," Robertson told disappointed supporters. "It looks pretty good in the rest of the south."

Robertson had hoped to pick up mainstream conservatives in addition to his core supporters among evangelical Christians. But television polls showed the former preacher was badly hurt by a series of controversial statements including an unsubstantiated claim that the Soviet Union had placed nuclear missiles in Cuba.

In addition, NBC said Robertson won only 30 per cent of the voters who identified themselves as "born again" Christians. The South Carolina voting

was a Republican-only affair and party members turned out in record numbers. About 200,000 votes were cast, easily surpassing the previous high of 145,000 in the 1980 Republican primary.

Wyoming held the only Democratic voting yesterday and Tennessee Senator Albtorn Gore eked out a narrow 28-27 per cent win over Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis for the state's 18 national convention delegates.

Missouri congressman Richard Gephardt had 23 per cent.

Dukakis and civil rights activist Jesse Jackson are expected to win the biggest number of Democratic delegates on Super Tuesday. Gephardt, who won early tests in Iowa and South Dakota, and Gore are expected to battle for third place.

Polls show Dukakis leading in Florida and Texas, which by themselves account for nearly a quarter of the delegates available on Tuesday. Dukakis is expected to win in his home state of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Washington.

Jackson is counting on the solid support of his fellow blacks, who account for about one-third of the Democratic voters in the south, to give him victories in several states.

Exercises

STANLEY, Falkland Islands, March 6 (AP): Overriding Latin American protests, British troops head to the Falkland Islands for exercises beginning tomorrow to test the country's ability to reinforce the South Atlantic archipelago.

A dispute over the Falkland Islands sparked the 1982 war between Britain and Argentina.

Aquino plans
Saudi trip to gain
Islamic support

MANILA, March 6, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino is reportedly planning a mid-year visit to Saudi Arabia to woo support from the Islamic world for her government, which is facing threats of a renewed Muslim separatist war.

The respected Manila Chronicle newspaper quoted the Philippine Ambassador to Washington, Emmanuel Pelaez, today as saying Aquino might visit Jeddah after addressing an International Labour Organisation meeting in Geneva in June.

Pelaez was Aquino's chief negotiator in autonomy talks with Muslim separatists until he was named Washington envoy late last year. He has remained her close adviser on Muslim affairs.

Moves

Presidential Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said today he could not confirm or deny the report.

The report followed moves by the Moro National Liberation Front to gain membership of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference to strengthen its campaign for a separate Muslim homeland in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

Rebel spokesmen have said Saudi Arabia backed the front's bid for OIC membership, which would give it the status of a virtual government in exile.

Manila says it is confident the OIC will reject the rebels' bid when it meets in Jordan later this month. But it has also expressed fears that OIC approval might

rekindle a dormant 15-year-old secessionist war that killed more than 50,000 people in the 1970s.

In the Philippines' other war, troops today launched air and ground operations against communist rebels who kidnapped seven troopers in the northern province of Ilocos Norte.

Abducted

Army reports said the guerrillas abducted four soldiers from a passenger bus on Friday and took three others hostage in an attack on a jeep-load of troopers sent to pursue them.

Three soldiers were killed in a mistaken encounter with another military unit in Cagayan province, also in the North, on Friday, the Philippine news agency reported. It said the two units thought the other was a rebel group.

Japanese Red Army extremists have entered the Philippines and armed communist rebels to carry out assassination and sabotage, Manila's immigration chief says.

Syndicate

Immigration Commissioner Miriam Defensor Santiago said members of the Red Army and Bouyryuk-Dan, a Japanese criminal syndicate, entered through Cebu airport posing as tourists or businessmen.

Santiago's disclosure, in a speech to a civic group on Friday, was published in the Philippine Star newspaper today.

Aquino, in a taped speech broadcast today, said she fully supported a government campaign to arrest and deport foreigners involved in illegal activities.

Efforts stepped up
to free Briton

BEIRUT, March 6, (AP): Sunni Muslim militia leaders today stepped up efforts to rescue a kidnapped Briton in South Lebanon's port of Sidon. Senior Shiite sources said an abducted US Marine officer was unlikely to be freed soon.

Aides to Sidon's Sunni leader Mustafa Saad said he was intensifying pressure on the Palestinian commando group led by Abu Nidal to free Peter Coleridge, 44, of the British Oxfam relief organisation and his Syrian aide Omar Trabulsi, 31.

Police accused Abu Nidal's Fatah-Revolutionary Council of holding the pair at Sidon's sprawling El-Hilweh refugee camp despite public disclaimers by the faction's spokesmen.

Coleridge and Trabulsi were kidnapped on Thursday during a visit to inspect Oxfam operations in Sidon.

Alliance

Saad, whose Nasserite militia controls Sidon, has threatened to reconsider his alliance with the Palestinians if Coleridge and Trabulsi are not quickly released.

"He is turning the heat on the kidnappers," said one Saad aide, who spoke on condition of not being identified further. He said Saad was determined that the two men be freed unconditionally.

He refused to elaborate beyond saying the Oxfam

officials would "definitely be freed shortly. They are not to be classified as hostages."

Coleridge is the Middle East coordinator of Oxfam, which is based in Oxford, west of London. Trabulsi is the organisation's Lebanon representative.

Meanwhile, President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon said in a television interview that he knows where the French hostages are being held, but can do nothing about it because of all of the military forces in the area.

Distressed

"Believe me, I am very distressed by this question of hostages," Gemayel said yesterday in an interview on Canal Plus, the French Pay-TV network. "But don't forget that all of the Lebanese people are being held hostage. Lebanon has been hostage since 1975."

The President said he had certain secrets that he could not reveal, but added: "We are well informed about the hostages and we are in the process of helping a lot toward a happy ending."

"Everything leads us to believe that we can hope for an outcome, if not a global outcome, at least a partial outcome to the problem."

Asked by the interviewer if all of the three French hostages were still alive, Gemayel said he would not answer the question.

"Yes, (I have) certain worries, but I can't go further," he said.

Pakistani
air chief

ISLAMABAD, March 6, (Reuters): The Pakistan government promoted Air Vice-Marshal Hakimullah to Air Marshal yesterday and named him Chief of the Air Staff.

A Defence Ministry announcement said Hakimullah, 53, would take over on Tuesday from 54-year-old Air Chief Marshal Jamal Ahmad Khan, who is retiring at the end of the customary three-year tenure of office.

Dany Chamoun
to run for
presidency

BEIRUT, March 6, (Xinhua): Christian National Liberal Party chairman Dany Chamoun, who has declared his candidature for the presidency, if elected will give top priority to normalise Lebanese-Syrian relations.

At a party meeting held in Ashrafieh, East Beirut, Dany Chamoun, son of late ex-President Camille Chamoun, officially declared his programme.

Chamoun in his fifties, who is considered to be an acceptable candidate by all concerned including Syria, said in his programme that he strongly urges for an end to the civil war through direct talks with rival factions.

Under the 45-year-old constitution, Lebanon's president should always be a Christian Maronite. The Muslim leaders strongly demand for an equal share of power by reducing the president's power and an immediate political reform to abolish the confessional system.

Cash shortage

PANAMA CITY, March 6, (AP): A cash shortage sparked by a US-backed campaign to oust Panama's military leader brought sales to a standstill during the weekend with one shop owner declaring "we can't go on like this." Virtually the only enterprises doing business yesterday were food markets and those selling other essentials, such as fuel.

Arafat
'ready to
recognise'
Israel

(Continued from Page 1)

members of the United Nations Security Council. All participants in the conference must accept United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and renounce violence and terrorism. The parties to each bilateral negotiations may refer reports on the status of their negotiations to the conference, in a manner to be agreed. The conference will not be able to impose solutions or veto agreements reached.

"Palestinian representation will be within the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The Palestinian issue will be addressed in the negotiations between the Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations. Negotiations between the Israeli delegation and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will proceed independently of any other negotiations."

"This statement of understanding is an integral whole."

Israel's divided cabinet clashed today over whether to respond to the US peace initiative ahead of a visit to Washington by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir later this month.

Israeli news reports said the proposals, submitted by Shultz to the right-wing Shamir and his Labour Party rival, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, called for a unified Israeli response soon.

Two more
Palestinians
killed

(Continued from Page 1)

Troops clashed with demonstrators throughout the strip and in Gaza city burst into Shifa Hospital searching for a man who threw a stone at an Army jeep near the hospital grounds, the sources said.

An eyewitness said soldiers arrested two visitors to the hospital and a patient with a broken hand.

An off-duty Arab policeman in the strip was wounded by a rubber bullet when troops chased demonstrators in Beit Hanoun, the sources said.

Security sources said three people in the West Bank village of Sam'a were wounded in the legs when an Army officer fired at a crowd throwing bottles and iron rods at soldiers.

Near the usually quiet town of Jericho, attackers buried a petrol bomb at a parked Israeli vehicle. The car was destroyed but no one was injured, the sources said.

Israel's Tim news agency said police arrested 10 Israeli Arabs from the cities of Umm El Fahm and Nazareth and the village of Jatt on suspicion they threw petrol bombs at Israeli vehicles and raised PLO flags.

In northern Israel yesterday, Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets fired from southern Lebanon slammed into a house, wounding five people.

Senior Army officers said the rockets were fired by the PLO to encourage the uprising.

In Washington, the Arab League said that Henry Kissinger should apologise to Palestinians for his comments recommending that Israel put down demonstrations in the occupied territories by whatever force is needed.

American
helicopters
in Gulf
fired on

(Continued from Page 1)

gunships, operating from ship-board or offshore barges.

The Navy did not say who had fired on the helicopters, but there appeared no doubt it was Iran, which controls most of the oil platform and uses some supply and staging bases for the armed boats that patrol the waters and attack neutral shipping.

"The crew observed heavy machinegun fire ... directed to the helicopters," said McGigue. "The fire from the platform was joined by fire from several unlighted boats in the area."

He said the helicopter crewmen may have not known they were being fired on until tracer bullets started lighting up the sky. They did not retaliate but "were more concerned with escaping. They were in a position where they had fire coming from several directions at once," he said.

New AIDS drug

CAIRO, March 6, (Reuters): Zaire's leading expert on AIDS has said a drug jointly developed with an Egyptian surgeon has proved 80 per cent successful after a 10-month trial in treatment of the fatal disease.

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Cabinet briefed on Mubarak's message of his US visit

UNDER the chairmanship of acting Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed the Council of Ministers yesterday held a regular meeting.

Following the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed stated that the conference was briefed, after receiving minutes of the previous meeting, on the message received by HH the Amir from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak which dealt with the outcome of Mubarak's tour to the US and Europe.

\$5m aid

The council took note of a verbal message sent to the Amir by Egyptian President within the framework of consultations and means of further boosting Arab solidarity, Al Rashed said.

The ministers were also briefed on messages exchanged by the

Amir and PLO chief Yasser Arafat which tackled the situation in the occupied territories and assessment of the organisation in regard to Kuwait's firm stances in support of the popular uprising and the Palestinian people, he added.

The council, in accordance to the Amir's directions, decided to extend the sum of \$5 million in form of aid, to assist charitable societies and hospitals in the occupied Arab lands, the minister added.

Contacts

The cabinet was briefed on a message received by the Amir from the Bangladeshi President Husein Mohammed Ershad which dealt with means of enhancing Islamic cooperation and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Following the briefings, the

council discussed political issues including developments on the international and Arab arenas, Al Rashed said, adding that outcome of efforts and contacts within the framework of Kuwaiti drive, aimed at putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war, were subjects of discussion.

The conferees took note of latest efforts seeking the most possible backing for the ongoing popular uprising and drives seeking implementation of international resolutions regarding Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories and granting the Palestinian people the right for self determination under leadership of the PLO.

The council discussed a number of domestic matters and adopted necessary recommendations and decisions, Al Rashed said.

Sheikh Sabah sends message to Alawi

MUSCAT, March 6. (Kuna): State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Oman, Yousef Al Alawi, received a message today from his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

Radio Muscat reported that the message was delivered to the Omani Minister by Kuwaiti ambassador here Abdul Wahab Al Adani.

Al Alawi also received another message from his Democratic Yemeni counterpart Abdul Aziz Al Dali, according to the radio.

The broadcast did not provide any details on the content of the messages.

Charity house capital KD12m

THE Sabah Charity House, a charity organisation to aid families of Kuwaiti martyrs killed in the defence of their country, has been ordered established by an Amiri Decree.

The charity, with a capital of KD12 million of which KD6 million was donated by Sheikh Salem Al Ali, will operate with a board under the chairmanship of HH the Amir and with HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah as deputy chairman.

The exact activities in which the charity will engage will be determined by the board of trustees.

Telex service expanded

SOURCES at Kuwait's Communications Ministry said that 17.3 per cent of the total number of telex messages sent last year were to the United Kingdom.

The sources added that direct telex service during the past year had been expanded to include Hong Kong and Thailand.

The estimated load of local telex lines is 78.8 messages and 1,019 minutes each year, sources said, and the international telex line capacity is estimated at 4,500 messages and 12.3 thousand minutes.

The sources explained that the current economic situation in Kuwait limited the demand for the telex service.

Yugoslav delegation holds talks with Kuwaiti officials

H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received a message from President of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council, Branko Mikelich.

The message was delivered by director of the Yugoslav Premier's Office, Goran Kabanovich, currently leading a Yugoslav delegation visiting Kuwait, to the Director of Sheikh Saad's Office, Abdullatif Al Bahar.

The meeting was attended by Yugoslav Ambassador to Kuwait, Hassan D. Begovic.

Earlier yesterday, the Yugoslav delegation held a round of talks with senior Kuwaiti officials led by the Director of the Premier's office.

From the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by Finance Undersecretary, Abdul Mohsen Yousef Al Naif, the Deputy Armed Forces Chief of Staff for logistics and supplies Brigadier Abdulaziz Al Sayegh and the managing director of Public Authority for investment (PAI) Dr Fahd Al Rashed. Several other senior officials at the Council of Ministers, the Finance Ministry and PAI took part in the discussions.

On the Yugoslav side, the exchanges were attended by the Minister of External Trade, Nenad Krekich, the Undersecretary of Finance, the director general of logistics and supplies at the Ministry of Defence, besides the Yugoslav Ambassador in Kuwait.

Easy payment of electricity and water bills under study

HOMOUUD Al Rqobah, Kuwait's Minister of Electricity and Water, said that HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister have issued instructions to study all possible ways of providing easy payment of electricity and water bills for citizens and expatriates and to install electric and water lines in all areas.

The minister said that he is studying 10 projects to develop the structure and function of the ministry. He said that there would be no reduction in electricity charges, explaining that each kilowatt of power generated in Kuwait costs the government 20 fils, while the ministry charges only 2 fils. He added that electricity charges for chalets was now being studied and would possibly be reduced in the future.

Speaking about the rusty colour of the drinking water in Kuwait, Al Rqobah said treatment involves three major steps. The first step is to add harmless chemicals to the water. The second is to replace the present network of water pipes with rust-free pipes. And the third step will be for consumers to replace water tanks with new ones or to clean the old ones. He commented that these steps should permanently solve this problem.

Al Rqobah said that an international consulting company is studying the feasibility of a project to get fresh water from Iraq to Kuwait. The GCC power link project will be implemented soon, he said, adding that the possibility of using nuclear reactors to generate electrical power in Kuwait had been ruled out.

Fishermen seek protection

YOUSEF Al Jassar, the deputy chairman of the Fishermen's Diwan in Salmiya, requested Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources to protect the interests of fishermen. He added that present regulations placed obstacles in the way of fishermen earning their livelihood.

Al Jassar cited the example of the law that prohibits fishing within three miles of Kuwait's coast. He said the law was issued to protect the breeding of shrimp but the authority prevents any fishing in the three mile area. He explained that fishermen can protect shrimp by using nets with larger holes and still be able to take fish.

The authority should reconsider these regulations and have experts look at ways to protect

both the rights of fishermen and marine life, he said. He added that the authority should also show more concern in increasing the local fish resources and should supply Kuwaiti fishermen with needed equipment and materials.

Sheikh Nawaf receives envoys

KUWAITI Minister of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed yesterday received the US Ambassador Nathaniel Howell and Yemeni Democratic Republic's Ambassador Awad Salem Ba Abbas.

Sheikh Nawaf discussed with the two ambassadors ways of fostering cordial relations between Kuwait and both the US and South Yemen.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir received yesterday Sheikh Jaber Al Ali.

Amir to patronise

UNDER the patronage of His Highness the Amir and in the attendance of Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah as representative of the Amir, the meetings of the general assembly of Organization of Islamic Radio stations will be inaugurated today.

Message from Prince Abdullah

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received a message from Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard, Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

The message was delivered by the Saudi Ambassador in Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al Sudairy to the director general of the Crown Prince's office Abdullatif Al Bahar.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Arms embargo against Iran

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday said the big powers have to work seriously toward an arms embargo against Iran in light of Iran's continued rejection of the UN Security Council resolution 598.

Al Rai Al Aam, in an editorial on the latest escalation in the Iran-Iraq war, said contacts should take place among the capitals of the big powers in order to end the fighting and enforce the respect to the will of the international community.

The paper said Iran is not willing to implement the Security Council resolution and does not want to reach a peaceful settlement for the Gulf war, currently in its 8th year.

The paper added that Iran's position is not harmonious with the will of the Islamic or the international communities and Iran "would not hesitate to strip the Security Council resolution of its most important points, which are the ceasefire and peace negotiations."

The paper also said that Iran is trying to pretend that it has changed its position toward resolution 598, but it is clear that this attempt was taken by Iran at the pressure of the Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran.

GULF PRESS

War of the cities

THE Qatari press yesterday warned of the destructive consequences of the grave turn in the Iraq-Iran war, appealing to the two belligerents to end the escalation and look for a radical solution to the conflict.

The war of the cities in which the two Muslim states are now locked means more destruction and devastation and increases human and material losses on the two sides, the Qatari Al Arab newspaper said.

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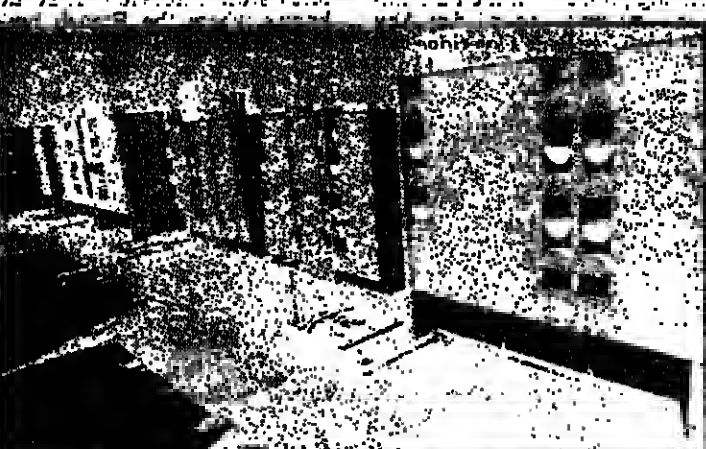
Kuwait's welfare benefits — generous by any standard

SOMETIMES it's easy to take certain things for granted, particularly in a country like Kuwait where people, myself included, just love to grumble. So to help redress the balance maybe it's a good idea to take a closer look at some of the benefits of living here.

I'd like to concentrate on the incredible range of welfare benefits, not a few of which are available to expatriates as well as Kuwaitis, which go to make Kuwait surely the most generous state in the world. It's easy to take them for granted, but when you actually stop and take stock of them all it is hard to avoid the conclusion that life here is pretty good.

Take health care, for example. Kuwait has a great many brand new, superbly equipped hospitals, staffed by medical experts from all over the world from Swedish surgeons to Filipino nurses. Medical care is completely free for both Kuwaitis and expatriates. Moreover, if the patient cannot be treated adequately in Kuwait, the government will pay for them to be treated abroad. This facility is also available to expatriates who have lived here for more than seven years and also includes travelling and hotel expenses for a relative to accompany the patient.

This is generous by anyone's standards, but what makes it more amazing is that nobody has to pay a single "il" in health insurance or other contributions. The entire service is



A government-built housing complex.

totally and utterly free. In this respect there are plenty of us who tend to the belief that freedom from taxation is one of the best types of freedom there is!

For Kuwaitis, the list of welfare and social benefits is almost endless. Kuwait's housing policy is a classic example. Every Kuwaiti head of household is entitled to a government house, or a plot of land and a cash grant of no less than 54,000 dinars with which to build the house of his dreams.

Over the past decade many enormous housing estates, each one amounting to a suburb, have been built around the city. They come complete with all necessary facilities and amenities: a clinic, fire and police stations, public gardens and playgrounds, schools, a co-operative supermarket, utilities like water, sewage and electricity. The houses themselves

are spacious and handsome dwellings. The ones I have visited have four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a lounge, dining room, kitchen and diwan all soundly constructed and attractive to the eye.

Option

Middle-income Kuwaitis have the option of choosing to take a plot of land and a cash grant to build their own dream house. They buy the land from the government at only 25 per cent of its true market value. If they cannot even afford this, then cheap loans are available to enable them to raise the necessary capital. The cash grant of 54,000 dinars (almost 200,000 US dollars) is more than enough to enable the lucky recipient to build a superb house to his own design.

The repayment period for the loans of ten years means that the occupants never really have to repay anything like the sum

they actually borrowed. Indeed, the government has completely cancelled these debts on more than one occasion to celebrate a special event, such as the accession of the present Amir in 1978. When this happens it means that the proud householder gets a house at a tiny fraction of its real value.

One of the traditions of modern Kuwait is the regular lottery that is held to distribute new houses or building plots when they become available. All the people at the top of the housing list are invited to some large community hall where the National Housing Authority sets up a large map of the housing project with each house, or plot clearly numbered. The participants are each given a number and these numbers are then drawn rather like a huge bingo game where everyone is a winner. When your number is called, you simply step up to the map and choose where you want to live. This neatly avoids any arguments about whether one house is in a better position than another. Also, the houses on any given estate are usually built in four or five different styles, so if some styles are more popular than others at least everyone has a chance of getting the style they prefer.

Again, it must be remembered that all of this largesse is paid for by the state of Kuwait without the citizens having to contribute anything by way of taxes. Kuwait's oil revenues are thus distributed for the widest possible benefit of the population as a whole.

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Amir donates \$100,000

Rashed extols Unesco's role in promoting culture

ADVISER at the Amiri Diwan and member of the administrative council of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture, Abdul Aziz Hussein said yesterday that HH the Amir donated \$100,000 from his personal account to the fund.

Hussein said, in a statement to Kuna, that the Amir informed members of the administrative council of his donation during his meeting with them yesterday.

He added that this generous donation from the Amir comes to complement a donation of a similar sum granted by the government to the fund.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and president of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed yesterday opened the seventh session of the executive board of the International Fund.

The inaugural ceremony, held at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel, was attended by Minister of Education and Acting Minister of Higher Education Dr Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri and the fund's board members.

Acting secretary of NCCAL, Miss Wafaa Al Sane, Arah and

foreign ambassadors in Kuwait also participated in the inaugural session.

In his opening statement, Rashed extolled Unesco's dedicated work in promoting cultural exchanges between world countries with the aim of preserving international peace.

Turning to the fund, the Kuwaiti official emphasised that his institution managed, in a short period, to translate into action Unesco's noble principles and objectives.

He expressed belief that the fund would continue to open new horizons before educational, cultural and scientific inter-action between world peoples in the context of the international decade for cultural development starting this year.

Affirming Kuwait's strong faith in the fund's highly valuable activities, Al Rashed pointed out that this culturally and educationally pioneering Gulf state would contribute generously to fund programmes this year.

Afterward, Education Minister Dr Al Nouri underlined, in a statement, the importance of



Rashed Al Rashed

sound management and utilisation of natural resources in national development plans.

He indicated that the Arah group is hoping that Arab culture and language find due attention in Unesco programmes as the current Western scientific civilisation could trace its roots to the Arab world.

The Kuwaiti minister stressed that the fund's remarkable activities in support of cultural interaction despite adverse circumstances testify to the fact that

it is taken by the world community as a serious forum that brings closer international cooperation.

Also speaking was board chairman Dr Bashir Al Bakri who stressed that despite the fund's humble resources, if compared to other international organisations, it has managed to serve as the first international bank of culture that has financed 244 projects in more than 80 countries.

The projects, he went on, have helped to collect and rehabilitate cultural heritage, encourage formative arts, theatre, music, literature, cinema and cultural craftsmanship.

Dr Al Bakri pointed out that the meetings are coinciding with the start of the international decade for cultural development that has been sponsored by the Unesco with the aim of protecting the cultural identity of world peoples and encouraging universal cultural exchanges.

Concluding, the distinguished Arah man of letters praised Kuwait's diligent support for international cultural and educational cooperation over the past 25 years.



HH the Amir receiving members of the board of directors of the International Fund for Promotion of Culture.

Reduced dowries likely to encourage more marriages

By Nasr Al Sbai

A NUMBER OF Kuwaiti tribes have announced decisions to limit the amount of dowries in order to ease the financial burden on young people and to encourage more marriages.

Falah Bin Jami from Al Awazim tribe said high dowries forced a number of youths to remain single because they were unable to meet the demands of the proposed wife's relatives. Some men even married foreign women which created social problems because of the differences in traditions and cultural values.

The decision regarding dowries was also the result of the

concern for the growing number of unmarried women.

Falah Bin Jami said that a maximum dowry had been agreed upon by all members of the tribe and that those who violated the agreement would be ostracised.

Adverse

He said that he trusted the members of his tribe to follow the dowry conditions, adding that 60 persons from his tribe were married during the last week with dowries of KD4,000. He said that some families who had married before the agreement had returned half of the amount of the dowry to the husband's relatives.

One young man, Fahad Ayed Al Azmi, said he thought the decision was a positive one and

would help decrease the number of unmarried women.

Another man, Rashed Al Shemari, was not as hopeful. He said the decision would have adverse effects in the future because of the high cost of living in the Gulf area. He said low dowries would encourage polygamy, which would create other social problems. He requested government officials to study the situation and to arrive at a more scientific solution.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has praised the announcement made by a number of tribes to reduce dowries and expressed his desire that others would do the same.

Artificial impregnation programme

THE Animal Health Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources is organising a scientific and refreshing programme in the field of venereal and artificial impregnation.

The programme, organised in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s regional project for animal health and production in the Middle and Far East, is held during the period of March 1 until April 14.

A number of veterinarians, animal observers, agriculture engineers and experts are participating in this programme.

The programme is designating training courses for workers in the field of venereal and artificial impregnation.

The programme started its working agenda with two groups, the first from March 1 till 24 which comprised veterinarians from animal health department and workers from private sectors, the second from March 26 till April 14 which will comprise agriculture engineers and technicians from private sectors.

Psychiatric Hospital concerned with treatment of drug addicts

KUWAIT'S Psychiatric Hospital is plagued with many problems, but one particular concern to the hospital administrators and personnel is the treatment of drug addicts.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, the Director General of the hospital Dr Ibrahim Maarouf said that most of the patients admitted to the hospital were addicts. He explained that the hospital staff made every possible effort to keep drugs from these patients, but they were somehow able to procure them. Drugs are smuggled in to patients in food, juice, soap, videos and a number of other ways, Maarouf said. He added that although the administration had prohibited visitors access to patients addicted to drugs, the drugs still managed to reach them.

Family's role
Dr Maarouf maintained that addiction problems were the responsibility of the Ministries of Interior, Education, Social Affairs and Labour and Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs. He did not see it as a problem that should be the responsibility of the Psychiatric Hospital and the Ministry of Public Health.

Other hospital patients were relatively easy to handle and caused no problems, he said.

Other members of the hospital staff indicated the importance of the family's role in the patient's treatment and in being admitted. Dr Hatem Al Sharief said that most of the mental disorders were due to social and family problems in addition to emotional pressures.

Communication
Patients admitted to the hospital stay for periods ranging from three months to twenty years. Some patients with chronic mental disorders have no contact with their families for extended periods of time. Dr Saleh Al Helwani, hospital psychiatrist, said the administration encourages communication between patients and their families.

Another psychiatrist said that doctors are as concerned about the families as they are of the patients. He said that families are contacted by a social worker who encourages them to visit the family member in the hospital, but this is not always successful.

Dr Majed Al Badremani said that recreational centres need to be made available for patients both in the hospital and in out-patient clinics. Recreational outlets would provide a useful change in the routine of the patient's life and reduce some of the pressure he might experience.

The hospital suffers from a shortage in nursing staff, with some wards having only two nurses caring for 30 patients. One doctor commented that the hospital was in need of equipment to meet specific patient needs, was very old, and lacked any recreational facilities.

Nurses interviewed complained that the attitude toward their positions was not very supportive. One nurse said that people do not seem to understand the value of what they do.

In spite of all the problems the hospital faces, Dr Maarouf expressed confidence that the administration was giving the best possible care to the patients.

The hectic pace of modern civilisation has increased the number of psychiatric patients. Dr Al Badremani called on families to pay more attention to their children in order to prevent them from developing psychiatric disorders.

Airline holds reception



KLM, the Royal Dutch Airline, in cooperation with "Holland Calling" held a reception in the Grand Ballroom of the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel recently.

A presentation of Holland, the "Country for All Seasons", was given during the evening with a "Son of Lumiere" projection on three large screens with stereophonic effects

introducing the different faces of Holland. The Ambassador of the Netherlands, embassy officials, a number of Dutch nationals, Kuwaiti and foreign personalities, representatives of travel agencies and the press enjoyed the buffet of local and international foods and a variety of Dutch cheese which followed the presentations.

Isbo meeting reviews agenda

MEETINGS of executive council of the Organisation of Islamic Broadcasting resumed yesterday for reviewing the agenda before endorsing the final recommendations in its last session.

Chairman of the meetings, Saudi Information Undersecretary Dr Fuad Al Farsi, told Kuna that the council approved a plan calling on implementing a project on teaching Arabic language for foreigners by television programmes.

Conditions and proposals for that project will be announced following tonight's session, Al Farsi indicated.

The council reviewed next year's budget, in addition to a number of organisational matters related to the council, he added.

Replying to a question, he said that "all executive council meetings for the organisation seek to boost Islamic ventures by radio and television."

Sale of spare parts is big business in Kuwait

ACCORDING to official statistics the sale of spare parts for cars is considered the second largest business based on the value of goods sold, with retail sales, in 1984 totalling KD 300 million. Retail sales for car fuel and oil for the same period was reported at KD 256 million.

The value of spare car parts reached KD 56.2 million in 1980, dropped to KD 53.6 million in 1981 and continued the downward trend in 1984 to KD 37.4, which represents the latest figures for imported spare car parts.

Kuwait has 85 wholesale

shops for spare car parts, with a total of 837 workers receiving annual salaries totalling KD 2.2 million. In 1984 consumers purchased spare parts totalling KD 33 million.

Necessitate
There were 1,081 retail shops in Kuwait in 1984 with a total of 8,373 workers receiving a total of KD 19.8 million in salaries.

Statistics also show that Kuwait has a viable market for spare parts with 650,000 cars in operation in 1987. And with harsh weather conditions taking

such a toll on cars, spare parts become an even more important commodity.

Technical studies have shown that car engine travelling a distance of 100 kilometres is subjected to 14 kilograms of sand and dust. The concentration of dust in the air in Gulf regions ranges between 69 milligrams in windy conditions to 21 milligrams in clear conditions. Such weather conditions necessitate that car maintenance be more carefully observed. Air and oil filters were obviously parts that require durability.

Air filter

Munir Fraji, the General Director of the Gulf Air Filter factory, said this type of industry is new to Kuwait and depends on both international and local expertise. He explained that the company's filters were manufactured under the licence of an American company.

Fraji said that air filters manufactured locally are less expensive and made following the same standards as imported filters. He expressed hope that the Ministry of Commerce would attempt to discontinue the importation of inferior quality filters to Kuwait since they compete with the national industry.

Kuwait's air filter industry meets half of the country's demand of 2,500 air filters daily.

Telecom ministers to meet

RIYADH, March 6, (Kuna): Transport and Telecommunications Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states are scheduled to hold their 4th meeting in Abu Dhabi next Wednesday.

A statement by GCC's general secretariat today said a preliminary meeting for the executive committee, which includes transport and telecommunications undersecretaries, will precede the ministers' deliberations.

The meeting will tackle a number of topics listed on the agenda, topped by measures adopted regarding integration between GCC states in the field of telecommunications, in light of previous decisions and recommendations approved by ministers.

The conferees will review

recommendations of specialised committees charged with finalising a unified formula for fees, rates and prices of telecommunication services at GCC member states.

Moreover, the statement said, the ministers will assess work of technical bureau for telecommunications and discuss means of boosting cooperation between member states in the training of cadres.

Badi for Pakistan

ABU DHABI, March 6, (Kuna): Chief of Staff of the United Arab Emirates' Armed Forces Major General Mohammed Sa'id Al Badi today left here for Pakistan.

During his few-day visit, Al Badi will meet with Pakistani senior officials.

One dead, five rescued as ship capsizes in southern Gulf

MANAMA, March 6, (AP): A small ship laden with construction materials capsized in the southern Gulf today and a French warship rescued five of its seven-member Asian crew, shipping executives said.

The warship, a minehunter called the Andromede, used its inflatable dinghies to pluck from the sea the five survivors and the body of one of their companions. But the seventh crew member remained missing, said the shipping sources.

Details
The shipping sources had described the vessel as a dhow, the Gulf's traditional lateen-rigged sailing vessel, but the Bahrain-based owners, Prosperity Trading, later said it was a former British Army landing craft converted into a freighter. They said it was a 61-metre (200 foot) wooden craft.

The vessel, named Jihad and flying the flag of Bahrain, was laden with 400 tons of dehydrated lime destined for that central Gulf island state when it capsized before dawn in choppy seas.

The company officials said they would not release further details on the incident until they had more information.

Spotted
The shipping source had earlier identified the crew members as Indians and Bangladeshis, though they could not immediately determine which of the seven had been lost. The survivors and the body were taken aboard the Andromede and would be later taken to the emirate of Abu Dhabi, they said.

The incident occurred about 80 miles west of Dubai, when a British tanker, the Tokyo Bridge, first spotted the capsized vessel and radioed a distress call, the sources said.

The French warship, which was nearby, responded to the call and found the survivors clinging to the capsized boat, probably

about two hours after the incident, said the sources.

One source said the Jihad later sank, but this had yet to be confirmed.

Aside from the Jihad, two dhows have fallen victim to the stormy winter seas in the Gulf in less than 10 days, but there were no deaths in the earlier incidents, which occurred off the Omani coast outside the Strait of Hormuz.

Winds were gusting around 30 knots on Sunday in the southern Gulf while waves were more than two metres high.

Shipping executives stressed that the three incidents had nothing to do with the "tanker war," an offshoot of the Iraq-Iran hostilities on shipping lanes of the Gulf.

The tanker war has been halted for almost three weeks as the two northern Gulf belligerents have turned to trading missile and warplane attacks on each other's cities.



Camel handlers leap forward from the paddock to seek the best position for their charges with their boy jockeys on the start line in Dubai's camel race track. This traditional Arab sport attracted hundreds of United Arab Emirates dignitaries at the start of the last week of this year's camel racing season. (Reuters wirephoto)

Heartfelt condolences to
Mr. Shabbir Rajab Ali & Family
On the sad demise of his
Father
in Karachi on 5th March '88
May his soul rest in peace.

Staff of the Reconciliation Dept.
National Bank of Kuwait.

WARNING

The Soir Jewellery Company hereby informs its customers that the services of **Alfah Hussain Butt** have been terminated. The company, therefore, is not responsible for any deal or contract made by him on its behalf as of 1.3.88.

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND PETROLEUM
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

We are pleased to invite you to
a lecture/seminar

Topic: Adaptive Arrays for Non-sinusoidal Waves

Speaker(s): Dr. Malek Hussain
Date: Tuesday, March 8, 1988
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: ECE Dept. Conference Room, 8, Khaldiya

All those interested are cordially invited.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Now come the clones

By Fathima Ahmed

If there was a "That's Incredible" of Hindi films Prasan Kapoor's *Tamacha* would deserve the dubious honour of getting a mention on the show. If not for the fights in the sky, then, certainly for notoriously using plastic surgery to multiply criminals.

Twins are out of fashion in films (population of twins has outgrown the unimaginative ideas generated by scriptwriters). The screenplay by K.P. Patnaik introduces cloning. Clones come in bunches of five. As if one Vikram (Rajnikant) was not enough to take on the CBI officer Ravi (Jumping Jack Jeetendra). Supermen heroes don't need any help in films, at least, that's what we've come to believe from films we have been watching.

Tamacha deems it necessary to produce five Vikram clones, who pop out of a van in apparently baffling viewers and to take on the lone CBI officer, Ravi.

"Which one of you is the real Vikram or I'll shoot down each one of you," roars Ravi, pointing his toy gun at the formidable enemies. Ravi can't kill any of them "because he promised the 'dying' Gantam (Vikram's baby brother) he would spare Vikram's life." Vikram concedes his facial muscles and sniggers as Ravi looks aghast.

Vikram, has once again, outwitted the dim-witted detective, Ravi. Cloning is in vogue. Let's hope it doesn't become a contagious disease in film land.

Ravi is charged with explosives — he is temperamental, moody and emotional. His outmoded method of finding "proof of Vikram's guilt" leads him and viewers into pits of despair. The depiction of anger on celluloid is confined to outbursts of frustration by a red-faced actor with his nose up in the air. Jeetendra gets plenty of opportunities to flare his nostrils and mutter incoherent dialogue. As Ravi watches, Vikram blows up the van carrying contraband, thanks to the creative Japanese for mass-producing remote controls. Somehow, the film maker has managed to mass-produce clones.

Tamacha is a multi-starrer with such names as Jeetendra, Rajnikant, Bhanupriya, Amrita Singh, Kimi Katkar and newcomer Sumeet Saigal. On centre stage are Rajnikant and Jeetendra. The others are "extras".

Kimi Katkar is a beautiful prop who pops her eyes and claps her hand in cheerful glee when her father approves of her, played by Sumeet Saigal. Amrita Singh as Mary is to shed tears before the Virgin Mary, aided by gallons of glycerine, light candles and hope for the best while her love, Vikram,



Bhanupriya and Jeetendra in a dream dance sequence

cruises around town with a pretty Bhanupriya in tow. When that fails the level-headed Vikram "marries the woman who loves him" — another example of male vanity. Bhanupriya is dilled-up for the dream dance sequences with Jeetendra (after all, Jeetendra must dance to the director's tune, and as he plays a CBI officer, he can't dance during waking/working hours).

The script falls back on clichés to keep the momentum of the personal — familiar — vendetta going, whether it is in court or on the street or in

cranes above skyscrapers. If it were not for plastic surgeon Mehta's handiwork, we might have just missed the point. Rajnikant, with his quaint mannerisms was never impressive in his earlier ventures. In *Tamacha* he stands out as an acceptable performer who does justice to the role of anti-hero Vikram.

Interesting

Kharidar features Shekhar Suman, Diljit Kaur and Sarika. The blue-eyed Sarika never made it big on screen. Off-screen she made headlines first by living with Kamal Hassan and then marrying him. Sarika was a talented actress who was

never allowed to show her capability. Producers and directors opted to take advantage of Sarika's statuesque beauty.

In Kharidar, she gets a chance to show her talent for drama, aided by a script that spotlights her character. A rebirth of the so-called women-oriented films Kharidar is about Chanda, a prostitute who gets a taste of respectability after agreeing to spend a weekend in an expensive hotel with a client, played by Shekhar Suman.

The theme handles the tenuous man-woman relationship, emphasising the stilted view that "fallen women" are mere chattels. Kharidar's script resorts to subdued melodrama like the touching relationship of Chanda and Kumar, a cancer victim, to transform the fiery prostitute into a woman of substance.

Both principal performers — Sarika and Shekhar Suman have done justice to their roles. Shekhar plays the client whose lust has driven him crazy. He lusts after every curvy woman, including Chanda. "I am paying for your favours and I want you to act accordingly," he tells Chanda when she starts falling out of line. When Chanda returns his gifts and money, he is shocked. Subtle touches of drama makes it interesting viewing.

The above films are available at Alhambra Video, Main St., Farwania. Tel: 471-2900.



Tamacha's star line-up: Kimi, Sumeet, Bhanupriya, Jeetendra, Amrita and Rajnikant.

Kuwait hosts theatre contest

KUWAIT will host the first GCC Theatrical Contest. It will be held here at the end of March.

Kuwait's entry at the drama contest will be Arthur Miller's play, *The Price*. Rehearsals are underway for the play, adapted by Abdul Aziz Al Sayyid and directed by Fuad Al Shabti.

Five GCC members will take part in the theatre contest, which will be hosted by Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE will stage Arab dramas. Saudi Arabia has not yet announced the title of its entry. Oman will take part in seminars and lectures.

The aim of the competition is to honour leading Arab playwrights, actors and directors.



Wenzinger cuts the ribbon to open the non-smoking floor at the hotel.

Hotel opens non-smoking facilities

THE Kuwait Sheraton Hotel has opened special facilities for non-smokers.

A non-smoking floor for in-house guests and a special section in the Coffee Shop were opened on Saturday by the hotel's general manager Peter C. Wenzinger.

Said Wenzinger: "Our goal is to satisfy our customers."

The keyword in the hotel industry is "service" and comfort for guests, he said, adding "hotels are no longer a matter of room and bed" and cater to the needs of customers.

The non-smoking facilities were opened in the presence of a large number of guests.

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

ACT

ACT's "An Evening of Absurdity" opens tonight at 8 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School. The evening consists of two absurdly comic one-act plays, *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco and *The American Dream* by Edward Albee. The play runs nightly until March 10 at the same venue. For reservations ring 5639204; 5620332; 5725071.

Rock 'n' Romance

June Stevenson and Phil Thomas of Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance, a show with a romantic touch at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2pm, or 5745838.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith. Gala opening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

SOCIAL

AUB Alumni Dinner
The AUB (American University of Beirut) alumni in



● Fresh lobster (above) promotion is now on at the Meridien's Versailles Restaurant. Guests can select lobsters and have them prepared to taste by the restaurant's chef. For reservations contact the hotel.

Kuwait will hold a dinner reception in honour of the AUB delegation visiting Kuwait. The delegation includes AUB president, deputy president and vice president. For reservations and further details phone 5619891; 5624502; 3980560.

Kuwait Natural History Group

The next meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday, March 8, at the Gulf English School Salwa. An illustrated talk on "Super Conductors in Kuwait" will be given by Mr. Qazi. For details phone Eric Shaw — 3718417.

Lunch Party
Friends of Great Ormond Street Hospital Lunch will be held on March 17, 1.30 pm, at Messilah Beach Hotel. For Reservations contact 4831339; 5636675.

Desert BBQ

Kuwait Players will hold a Desert BBQ on Friday, March 11. Organised games for children. Newcomers particularly welcome. Tel: 5330934; 5613465.

Kuwait Irish Society

St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Contact

The next meeting of the ladies information group, Contact, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

Photography Contest

Kapilku has extended the deadline to March 31 for submitting entries for the photography contest on "Portrait of Filipinos in Kuwait." The KPFI.D. number must be mentioned on all entries. For details phone 4877793.

SPORTS

Inter-School Knockout '88

Inter-school Knockout '88 will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Games featuring students and teachers will be held for three nights. For details contact the Holiday Inn hotel.

German Sports — Stammbach

The latest weekly German sports round-up shown on video every Tuesday at 7.30 pm at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Free entry. For details contact Bernhard Ilming — 4835344.

Swimming Classes

Swimming classes for children, beginners, improvers and advanced levels will be held at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel. For details contact the hotel's recreation manager.

Cricket Match

The BA Speedbird Trophy cricket match between teams representing Great Britain and Pakistan will take place at the KOC, Ahmadi, New Ground on March 15. Play commences at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

HOTELS

At the Sheraton

Yum Yum America: flavoured traditional American dishes such as steaks, Alaskan king crab,ysters, chicken Maryland and a selection of desserts including pumpkin pie are offered in the Hunt Room, Coffee Shop and Gourmet Shop.

At the Meridien

Versailles Restaurant features fresh lobster promotion, until March 17. La Brasserie offers daily lunch and dinner. Extensive buffet and a la carte service.

At the Hilton

La Palma, all-day dining restaurant open from 6.30 am, features Oriental, Continental and international cuisine and an array of sweets and desserts. Full American buffet breakfast offered from 6.30 am to 11 am. A la carte also available.

At the SAS

The Peacock Room offers Chinese dining from Peking to Szechuan daily for lunch and dinner, except Saturdays. Al Boom features Oriental and Western cuisine for dinner, nightly, and lunch and dinner on weekends.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.20 Ghadab Al Sahara: part 7 of Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rish, Sahar Rami, Talhath Hamdi
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Cultural film
- 6.45 News Summary
- 6.50 Weekend — repeat
- 7.15 Our Children and Their Future: local programme on the upbringing of Arab children. Tonight's guest speaker is Dr George Ta'amat
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Surag Al Simt: daily Arabic serial, featuring Sana Jamil, Hamdi Ghaitb, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal
- 10.50 Daerat Al Abdhath: "Circle of Events."



A still from tonight's mini-series, A Year in the Life, at 10.30 pm on KTV 2.

- Part two of discussion on Fisheries and Marine Resources in Kuwait. Guest speakers are Dr Jassim Mohammad Hassan, Dr Mohammad Abdullah Al Saif and Adnan Khalifa Al Rusbud.
- 11.45 News Summary
- 11.50 World News Via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 3.00 Holy Quran
- 3.10 Cartoons
- 3.55 Football: Oman vs Bahrain
- 6.00 Recording of Sports Festival held during Kuwait's National Day, by the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour.
- 7.30 Don't Wait Up: comedy about a British family. Mama returns home with a

- stranger.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 The Law and Harry MacGraw: "She's Not Wild About You." A man who wants to retain guardianship of his grand daughter, becomes involved in a case of forgery.
- 9.30 Harizim: BBC documentary.
- 10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life." The life, love and fortunes of a middle-class American family are revealed in this mini-series, starring Richard Kiley, Eva Marie Saint, Wendy Phillips, Morgan Stevens and David Oliver.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

- Morning
- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0805 Science Journal
- 0830 News
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0845 Daily Programme
- 0900 Songs and Music
- 0915 Writers and Their Works
- 0930 Radio Magazine Supplement
- 1000-Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1100 Closedown
- 1330 News on FM Service

- Evening
- 2100 Opening
- 2102 Bits and Bytes
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 Facts About Zionism
- 2215 Magazine Special
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Peli Mel
- 2400 Closedown

FM Services

- 0800 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Latin American Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 1900 Heller Skelter
- 2000 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Jazz Sound
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Music
- 0300 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behtereen Qaul
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Islamicat: Daur-e-Hazir
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hamare Mehman
- 2100 Closedown

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by 7th and 14th On the Border; 21st and 28th Six Cities
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Health Matters (ex 28th The Wondrous Cross)
- 30 Album Time
- 1200 Radio Newsworld
- 15 My World (ex 7th Just a Minute)
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 Cannery Row
- 1500 Radio Newsworld
- 15 7th and 14th On the Border; 21st and 28th Six Cities
- 45 Capriccio (ex 28th The Seven Ages of Man)
- 1600 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 The Unclaimed Promise (ex 28th)
- 30 Chain Reaction
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 45 Book Choice
- 15 Best on Record
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsworld
- 30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
- ALL TIMES GMT

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Marat Wal Kanoon (Arabic)
Starring: Shirhan, Farouk Fstawa, Majeda
Al Sabiyya
Jumping Jack Flash
Starring: Whoopi Goldberg
Al Hamra
Rajul Fi Ayoun Imraa (Arabic)
Starring: Ilham Shahin, Hatem Zulficar
Drive-In
Al Rajul Yahub Marratain (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Shahira, Laila Alwi, Hala Sudqi, Waheed Saif
Al Firdous
Mere Humdam Mere Dost (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Sharmila Tagore
Al Fahadhel
Oridathu (Malayalam)

Fahadhel Open-Air
Namak Halal (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor
Al Jahra
Carry On England
Granada
Labyrinth
Salsabikhat
Wanda Nevada
Al Jeeb
Johnny (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Tarzan: New York Adventure

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.47 am
Zuhr	11.59
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	5.52
Isha	7.08

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Hajeri Pharmacy
Hajeri Bldg., Hilali St.
Al Salam Pharmacy
nr. Universal, Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Saadah Pharmacy
Othman St., Nagra
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahadhel and Ahmadi
Al Wafa Pharmacy
Dabbous St., F'heel
Jeeb Al Shiyyookh
Al Ayoub Pharmacy
Shuwaiikh Commercial Centre
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

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A well-established catering company is looking for
A Maintenance Technician
Light Duty Drivers (with valid Kuwaiti driving licence)
Transferable visa essential.
Contact: 3929514, 3926847, between 8 am - 1 pm & 4 - 7 pm.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LONELINESS and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty — Mother Teresa, Yugoslav-born Roman Catholic nun-missionary (1910—).

Bangladesh elections

Political crisis remains unsolved

By Malcolm Davidson

DHAKA, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad won his expected landslide in parliamentary elections, but political analysts say the exercise has done nothing to resolve the country's four-month political crisis.

"I don't think this has changed anything," said one Western diplomat.

Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations, desperately needs stability, he said, adding: "I have no sense of optimism."

Diplomats and journalists who toured the polling stations during Thursday's parliamentary and municipal elections said they saw evidence of widespread ballot rigging and intimidation.

Ershad's Jatiya Party secured an overwhelming majority in parliament, winning 238 of the 279 seats declared in the 300-seat parliament.

The election commission ordered re-polling in four constituencies worst hit by election violence in which 13 people were killed in Dhaka and other cities.

Despite the resounding Jatiya result on paper, diplomats said that with the two major opposition parties boycotting the poll it was a hollow victory for Ershad, who seized power in 1982.

Strike
The Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) urged people not to vote and called a general strike to disrupt the poll.

There are no official turnout figures, but most indications show many people heeded the call.

The election followed four months of political turmoil in Bangladesh during which the opposition alliance repeatedly called general strikes to try to topple Ershad and force elections under a caretaker government.

But despite the troubles, a World Bank report said last week the economic effects were not as bad as originally thought and it now expected two per cent growth in 1988.

Some 80 per cent of Bangladeshis live below the poverty line,

Brazil's president battles for survival

By Stephen Powell

BRASILIA, (Reuters): President Jose Sarney, Brazil's first civilian leader after 21 years of military dictatorship, is fighting for his political survival and could soon lose his powers, political analysts said.

A constituent assembly is considering whether to adopt a parliamentary system of government which will concentrate power in the hands of a prime minister.

No date has been set for the assembly to vote on the issue, but the vote could come next week, congressmen said.

Sarney, a 57-year-old poet and lawyer who once said he never wanted to be president, saw his popularity slump under an economic crisis. Brazil's problems include inflation which this year could exceed 500 per cent, foreign debt of \$114 billion and mass poverty.

He came to power in March 1985, in what many regard as a historical accident, as a stand-in for Tancredino Neves, a popular president-elect who fell ill on the eve of his inauguration and died the following month.

During the 1964-85 military dictatorship, Sarney was a leader of the military-backed Social Democrat Party (PDS).

Now widely regarded as a weak leader, he is being assailed from various quarters.

He is struggling to secure votes in the assembly in favour of a presidential system of government under which he would retain effective political control and a five-year term of office for the head of state.

The assembly is expected to vote to give the head of state a four-year term of office instead with elections this year, as opinion polls indicate most people want. They would be the first elections in Brazil since 1960.

Sarney has been governing so badly and has been making such heavy-handed threats that they might take his powers away immediately," said David Fleis-

while per capita income, at around \$140, is the lowest in Asia.

Diplomats say they believe the opposition alliance lost its chance to oust Ershad last November when he was badly shaken by the strength of their campaign and there was a serious chance of martial law being declared.

"Nobody in November would have predicted that the Army would have not moved in," said a diplomat.

But the former general kept his grip on the Army and in late November moved against the opposition. He declared a state of emergency and then dissolved parliament on Dec 6, paving the way for elections.

He kept the initiative and is now under no great pressure to bring the opposition back into the political mainstream immediately. "I think the foreign community feels that he does not have to be rushed into anything," said a diplomatic source. "He is in the ascendancy and in control."

Few people have an answer for the political stalemate. One suggestion is that Ershad might try to woo the opposition later in the year by offering constitutional reform to strengthen Parliament, and then call a fresh election.

A senior former Jatiya figure said efforts were made to attract the BNP after the dissolution of Parliament in December but founder because Ershad thought Begum Zia's ideologically similar party could pose too much of an electoral threat.

The Army figures in most elections. Diplomats and the former Jatiya man said Ershad and the cabinet made few major decisions without at least telling the military.

The Army has played some sort of role in most of the political events that have convulsed Bangladesh since it won independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Some generals are said to hanker after a role in the political process, but junior officers in the new, more professional Army would prefer it to remain in barracks.

cher, head of the Political Science Department in Brasilia University.

Political scientist Helio Jaguaribe told Reuters there were two schools of thought in Congress among the advocates of a parliamentary system, some favouring its introduction after Sarney completed his term of office.

"Others feel that the only way to prevent a collapse of the system is to introduce parliamentarianism now," he said, adding that it was too early to say which view would prevail.

He said assembly president Ulysses Guimarães worried that unless the constitution was ready soon, the country faced the threat of chaos.

Observers say Sarney, apparently sensing that the tide is running against him, has seemed extremely tense and drawn in recent days in contrast to his earlier optimism.

In January, after a vigorous lobbying campaign, Sarney's supporters notched up 317 signatures from congressmen in the 559-member assembly for a five-year mandate.

Antonio Emílio de Moraes, head of the country's biggest private conglomerate, Votorantim, said this week: "If I were Sarney I would not insist on this business of five years. It is immense foolishness."

Brazil is a different country from the one the military took over more than 20 years ago. Rapid industrialisation has turned it into the Third World's biggest economy and it now has an independent trade union movement and a better organised political left.

The Roman Catholic church in Brazil, which in the early 1960s was conservative, has become one of the most left-leaning churches in the world as politicians have failed to narrow the gap between rich and poor.

The only official presidential candidate so far is former labour operator and strike leader Luis Inácio da Silva of the left-wing Workers' Party (PT).

Choke point for the Gulf

By Warren Richey

ABOARD HMS BATTLEAXE IN THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ: At 6.48 pm, the British frigate Battleaxe crosses a hypothetical line off the coast of Oman in the southern Gulf. On the navigator's chart it is labeled: "Silkworm envelope."

There are no bells, no warning sirens, no flashing lights. The officer on the bridge simply informs the appropriate crew members to proceed with "close up."

For the next nine hours certain hatches and doors are required to stay closed. The ship's fire brigade is on alert. Everyone sleeps fully clothed.

"The state means we are better prepared to deal with damage should we pick up a Silkworm," the officer on the bridge explains.

He is referring to the Chinese-built Silkworm antiship missiles Iran has positioned at key points along the 24-mile-wide Strait of Hormuz.

The bulky missile with a 50-mile range and a speed of six miles per minute is only one of an array of threats facing merchant seamen who regularly transit the strait and naval warships like the Battleaxe sent to the Gulf to protect them. There are Iranian warships, open motor launches, mines, and aircraft as well.

That means this narrow patch

of sea is not only the choke point for the Gulf, it is also the equivalent of home turf for Iran's Navy, Air Force, and Revolutionary Guards Corps. It is the one place in the Gulf where Iran could, if it so chose, quickly unleash the full fury of its unconventional forces in a "Jihad" (holy war).

Discount
British naval officers and other Gulf analysts discount the threat of an all-out "holy war" in the strategic waterway. They say that Iran needs access to open sea lanes at least as much as any of the other oil-exporting Gulf states. And they note that Iran's "rules of engagement" in the Gulf seem to preclude direct attacks on warships. Instead Iran has concentrated its hit-and-run raids on unescorted tankers.

But the British, like the Americans, French, Soviets, and others with warships in the region, are taking no chances.

"I have a full operations team ready. All weapons are ready to go, and the chaps are on the upper deck," says Comdr. T.J. Norman-Walker, captain of the Battleaxe, as his ship proceeds through the darkened strait under a nearly full moon.

The Battleaxe's defensive sys-

tems include air radar out to 114 miles, detailed sea surface radar out to 24 miles, and an array of electronic sensors. The computerised equipment in the ship's operations centre can locate and track in flight objects as small as an artillery shell.

In addition, a contingent of Britain's Royal Marines are positioned at the bow of the ship with Javelin shoulder-launched missiles, and along each side of the bridge with high-powered binoculars, night-vision scopes, and small arms. They are looking for anything suspicious. Each man is wearing a headset wired directly into the ship's war fighting room.

Difficulty
The difficulty for both radar operators and the Marines on the upper deck is trying to differentiate among unit fishing dories, darkened speedboats used by Iranian smugglers, and the 42-foot motor launches — "Boghammers" — that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards use for most of their hit-and-run raids in the busy waterway. Boghammer is the Swedish manufacturer who sold 30 of the fiberglass speed boats to Iran.

Fishing dhows, Boghammers, and pleasure craft all look the

same on radar, if they show up at all. And in choppy and hazy seas they can be very difficult to spot visually.

Crew members on watch duty are regularly rotated to avoid problems of stress and fatigue. But the routine in the Gulf sometimes seems never ending. "During exercises you are on the go all the time," says Robbie Robson, chief gunner. "Here, it is completely different. You never know what is going to happen."

Watch
A new threat of attack from Iran was added to the list when an Iranian F-4 jet fighter fired two missiles at a Liberian tanker in the strait on Feb 2. Both missiles missed but naval officers see the incident as an expansion of Iran's methods of attack. Nor is Iran the only worry. Recently, an Iraqi jet was flying uncomfortably near a US Navy ship when the jet fired a missile at Iranian installations. It was an Iraqi jet that, in a case of mistaken identity, fired an Exocet missile into the USS Stark, killing 37 crew members.

"It might not happen, but we are expecting anything," says Radar Operator Chris Sharp.

He says technicians in the

operations centre, watch for aircraft coming in low and zig-zagging or boats approaching very quickly. Operations centre personnel attempt to identify the approaching object with the help of computers.

If we still don't know what it is and it is closing, we contact it and ask, 'Who are you and what are your intentions?'" Sharp asks.

If the answer comes back, "I'm an Iranian F-14 (jet fighter) on my mission," then we say, 'please stay out beyond five miles.'"

British officers explain that what they are primarily concerned about are mistakes or crossed signals that might lead to an unintended attack.

"You find everyone in the Gulf talking to keep the picture clear and prevent accidents," says Lt Comdr Gwyn James, the Battleaxe's principal warfare officer.

He notes that in the event of an apparent Silkworm attack, naval officers would take special precautions to ensure that what they were seeing on their radar screens wasn't a low-flying private jet or other innocent aircraft.

Lt Commander James says that officers on the Battleaxe would expect a series of tip-offs before an incoming Silkworm

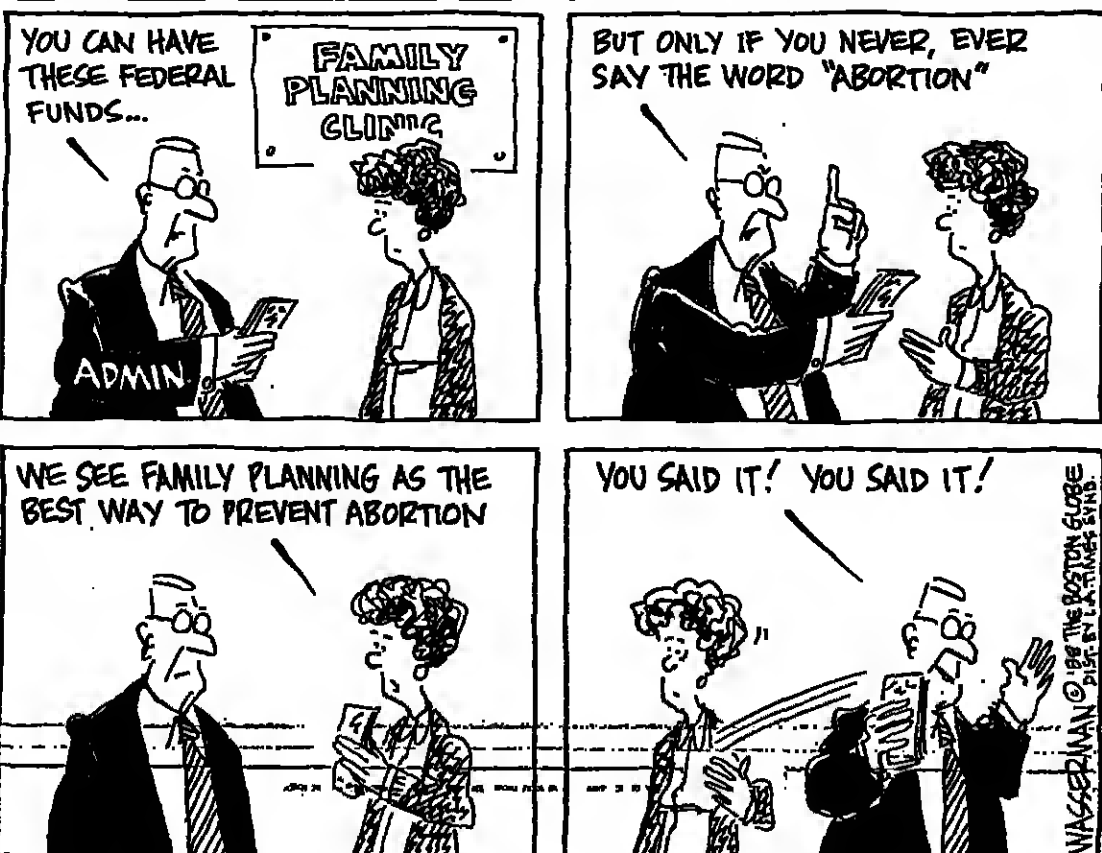
cleared the horizon. At night, marine sentries would probably see the flash of light from the Iranian mainland.

Next, radar technicians would pick up a fast-moving object and determine it wasn't a commercial aircraft. Meanwhile, the operation centre's computer would have automatically started plotting height and speed, and electronic sensors would be employed to identify the type of radar or guidance system. That would identify it as a Silkworm, according to James. "The whole thing is providing a picture to the commander so he can decide what to do," he adds.

Ultimately, a Seawolf missile would be fired to destroy the Silkworm and decoys would be deployed to draw it off target. Hand-held missiles and other close in weapons would be at the ready.

The Silkworm warhead is large enough to sink a warship. But naval officers say that under a convoy situation, the missile would probably veer toward the largest tanker in the group, because of the design of its guidance system.

The only Iranian Silkworms launched in the Gulf knocked out Kuwait's oil export terminal and hit two tankers anchored off Kuwait last October. The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



Super Tuesday

Major test of presidential candidates' strength

WASHINGTON, (AP): Super Tuesday in the United States, tomorrow, is considered a major indicator of candidate strength for the Democrats and Republicans seeking their party's US presidential nomination.

On that day, Democrats, who control both houses of Congress, hold primary elections or "caucuses" in 30 states and one territory and Republicans, who control the White House, in 16 states. Virginia holds a Republican primary, but Republicans will not select delegates as the Democrats will on that day.

Most of the states, 32, use variations of the primary system, in which voters go to the polls in a formal election atmosphere and cast ballots for one party or the other, indicating their preferred candidates in that party.

Eighteen states hold caucuses, in which party activists first meet on a local level. Delegates representing the most popular

candidates at the local level are sent to meetings covering progressively larger areas until the state winners are chosen.

Both the Republicans and Democrats — the parties which have dominated American politics this century — select their nominee for president at a quadrennial convention held the summer before the November general elections. The Democrats meet in Atlanta July 18-21 and the Republicans in New Orleans Aug 15-18.

Attention
In the run-up to the conventions, attention is focused on the votes candidates win in each state event. But what counts in the end is how many delegates to the national conventions each candidate is apportioned by the state party. Every state party has its own way of choosing delegates, but most base their selections on the outcome of the primaries or caucuses.

Super Tuesday offers can-

didates the biggest one-day slice of the delegate pie of the entire pre-convention season. A total of 1,307 Democratic delegates and 712 Republican delegates are selected that day — nearly a third of each party's total.

There will be 4,162 delegates attending the Democratic National Convention, and a candidate will need 2,082 for the party's nomination. There will be 2,277 delegates at the Republican National Convention, and 1,139 delegates are needed to nominate.

The candidate winning the most votes in each state's primary or caucus usually has the support of that state's delegates at the convention, at least on the first vote. If the party cannot choose a candidate at the first try, delegates often switch their votes, turning the gathering into what is referred to as a "hroked convention."

Nonetheless, how many

delegates a candidate accumulates prior to the convention often makes it possible to predict well in advance who will win the party's nomination.

Primaries
All states have primaries or caucuses at one time or another. Iowa and New Hampshire, in February, are the first crucial tests, but the process continues until just before the summer conventions.

The development of Super Tuesday reflects the desire of southerners, particularly Democrats, to create a regional primary to give them greater influence in selecting the nominees.

Because most of the states holding primaries on Super Tuesday are in the conservative south and the neighbouring area, political analysts figure it will improve the chances of the more conservative candidates — right-wing Republicans and centrist Democrats.

Democrats.

Big question mark hangs over new US Mideast peace plan

By Tony Barber

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Israeli intransigence, Palestinian militancy and the accumulated bitterness of 40 years of Arab-Israeli tensions place a big question mark over the prospects of a new US Mideast peace plan.

With few signs of an end to the three-month-old clashes between Israel forces and Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the United States is trying urgently to steer Israeli and Arab leaders into negotiations.

But as Secretary of State George Shultz ended a grueling nine-day tour of Middle Eastern capitals this weekend, there was little evidence that Israel or the two key Arab parties — Jordan and the Palestinians — had accepted the US peace plan.

"In general, I think that

minds," Shultz told reporters on Friday, explaining why he had proposed specific dates for starting different phases of the peace talks.

"So we have pointed out the fact that the situation carries inherent in it a certain sense of deadlines. I don't mind trying to make use of that, although you can't push people if they don't want to be pushed," he said.

Deadlines

The US plan, the first major Middle East initiative of the Reagan administration since September 1982, envisages an international peace conference next month followed in May by talks on interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied lands.

Negotiations on a permanent settlement of the "Arab-Israeli conflict" would open in December. If an agreement was reached in these talks it would take effect three years after the period of temporary Palestinian self-rule starts.

US officials said all parties to the conflict wanted the United States to continue its efforts and stressed that no-one, from Israel's right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, had rejected it outright.

Behind the upbeat tone, however, lies an awareness that the problems afflicting US peace efforts since the Reagan administration took office in January 1981 are still there, hardly any smaller now that a new plan is on the table.

Difficulties

One aide to Shultz summed up the difficulties by pointing to the reluctance of many Arab and Israeli leaders to accept that a lasting peace required real compromises. "Everybody can't have everything," he observed.

On the Israeli side of the equation, one problem is a split in the coalition government between Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Shamir rejects giving up occupied lands for peace, while Peres is more amenable to the idea.

Shamir, backed by his rightist

Likud Bloc, also opposes an international conference armed with powers to impose a final peace settlement on Israel. Peres and fellow Labour Party members are more receptive to an international conference.

Even the stance of Peres, however, does not meet Arab demands for a settlement ensuring full self-determination for Palestinians, including the possible creation of their own state, and the return of all Israeli-occupied lands.

The unrest in the West Bank and Gaza, in which more than 80 Palestinians have died, has increased the militancy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and made it more determined to insist on a prominent role in peace talks.

Reject

But all Israeli leaders reject contacts with the PLO. The long-standing policy of the United States is to deny the PLO a role in the peace process as long as it does not accept Israel's right to exist.

The new US plan envisages Jordanians and Palestinians negotiating as a joint team, but it is unclear if Jordan, other Arab countries and the PLO can agree on an agreement, let alone one acceptable to Israel and the United States.

"The process of putting (together) that delegation is not easy, but we have worked at that a lot," Shultz told reporters while flying from Damascus to Cairo. "I recognise there are plenty of difficulties."

Shultz said Israel and Arab states had agreed to reply to the new US plan before Shamir visits Washington in 10 days' time, but Shamir's aides said the prime minister would not be pressured into either accepting or rejecting the proposal.

Shultz acknowledged progress might be slow, saying: "If we can achieve something in this administration (before it ends next January), fine... on the other hand, if we can get something going for our successors can use in a successful way, then we'd like to leave that, too."

Regionalism raises its head in the Soviet Union

By Gerald Nadler

MOSCOW, (UPI): Armenian fury against Azerbaijanis recently is merely one drop in a caldron of a simmering nationalities problem in the empire that calls itself the Soviet Union.

While the British, Spanish, French and Portuguese overseas empires have been dissolved, the Soviet land empire that spreads over Eurasia lives on, inherited from the Czarist imperial state the communists displaced in 1917.

The multi-ethnic empire encompasses Ukrainians, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Armenians, Georgians, a host of Muslim peoples — Uzbeks, Tadzhiks, Kazakhs, Turkmenians — and Volga Germans, Tatars and Jews.

The multinational state is supposed to be held in harmony by a structure of 15 nominal republics, 16 autonomous republics and 18 autonomous regions, each sending delegates to a nominal parliament, the Supreme Soviet.

Although the national rouble currency is stamped in all 15 languages of the main republics and though a TV station in each republic broadcasts in the local language, the Soviet Union remains a melting pot that has not coalesced.

The Russians themselves are slightly more than 50 per cent of the polyglot empire, though the

Russian republic is the largest of the 15 republics, stretching from Moscow to the Pacific. The giant Ukraine and the Byelorussian republic are the other Slavic union republics.

Nationalities
Formed in 1917, the Soviet Union contains more than 170 nationalities, an equal if not greater number of languages and spans one-sixth of the globe's surface.

Communist ideology is supposed to have wiped out national, religious and racist animosities in favour of a socialist brotherhood of peoples joined in a struggle against the greater evil of bourgeois and capitalist exploitation.

"The unity of the multinational Soviet state is as solid as a diamond," the late Soviet ruler Leonid Brezhnev declared in 1968. "As a diamond sparkles with multicoloured facets, so does the unity of our people scintillate with a diversity of nations."

So much for theory. The 15 republics encase nations with histories of more than 1,000 years. Almost all despise each other, and the non-Russian republics resent the Russians.

The Ukraine, for example, by population and territory would be the sixth largest nation in Europe — an industrial dynamo

and agricultural grainary by any measure.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were once independent nations and still smart over their absorption into the Soviet Union in 1940. All are heavily Christian. Lithuania is fervently Roman Catholic, much like Poland.

In 1972 a Lithuanian student, Roman Kalanta, 20, immolated himself in the city of Kaunas under a poster reading "Freedom for Lithuania." Nationalist riots erupted. Russian street names were defaced.

Rioted
The five central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan, Kirgizia, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are largely Muslim.

In December 1986, Kazakhs rioted for two days when long-time boss, Dinmukhamed Kunayev, a Kazakh, was fired because of corruption and replaced by a Russian.

In the rugged Caucasus region that abuts Turkey and Iran, religion, race and nationality ferment in a volatile brew in the three republics: Christian Georgia and Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the animosities flared late in February in what is still a largely unexplained dispute.

What is known is that Armen-

ians living in the autonomous region of Nagorno Karabakh, an enclave inside the Azerbaijan republic, began demonstrating against control by the Muslim, Turkic-speaking Azeris.

A politburo candidate member, Vladimir Doligich, sent to the Caucasus, admitted there had been casualties but gave no details.

In any case, the Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh demanded they be allowed to secede from Azerbaijan and join the Armenian republic. The regional communist secretary agreed. He was quickly fired on orders from Moscow.

Demonstrations
The demonstrations spread to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, a republic of 3.4 million. Tens of thousands gathered daily in Yerevan's main square while orators harangued crowds.

"Such a grandiose sight I have never seen," one Armenian reported after returning to his Moscow home. "People streamed to Yerevan on foot from towns across Armenia."

One sign demanding the union of Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia draped a building 16 stories high," he recalled.

As the most nationalist of peoples, the Armenians need little reminder that 30 per cent of their brethren in the Soviet

Union live today in Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Their ancestral homeland itself is now part of Turkey near the famed Mount Ararat, the Biblical site of the Noah's Ark story. The Armenians once formed the oldest Christian state, adopting the creed in the third century.

The Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh came up against the full complexity of the nationalities conundrum in the Soviet empire.

The Soviet news agency Tass said 49 nationalities live in Nagorno Karabakh, of which about 100,000 Armenians comprise 75 per cent.

Only a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev calmed the situation. He promised, in the paraphrase of an Armenian journalist, that "we know there are problems, and we will solve them."

Threatened
Disaffection also has infected neighbouring Christian Georgia. Ten years ago, Georgians demonstrated against a proposed constitutional change that would have made Russian a co-equal language with Georgian. The measure had to be repealed by Moscow.

Now Georgian activists have threatened to renew demonstrations this April 14, if a Soviet

military firing range is not removed from near an ancient monastery, the David Kereja.

Even the smallest minorities have entered the nationalities fray, seizing on Gorbachev's promises of glasnost.

Last July more than 300 Crimean Tatars burst into Red Square and staged a sit-in under the red brick walls of the Kremlin. They demanded the return of some 200,000 be allowed to return from Central Asia to the Crimean Tatar homeland from which Josef Stalin deported them in May 1944, charging they collaborated with the German Army.

But the Crimean autonomous socialist republic along the Black Sea is no more. In 1954, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev made it part of the Ukraine. Just as the 1923, Stalin gave Nagorno Karabakh to Azerbaijan.

The Tatars had to content themselves with a promise of greater cultural opportunities and that a commission would keep studying their demands. They are reportedly still restive but are now banned from demonstrating in Moscow.

Many Russians recalled that the Tatars have an autonomous republic along the Volga. But those are a different branch of the

Instant delivery

Calling all expectant mums! Would you know what to do if you suddenly started to give birth in the supermarket? Here, medical experts give advice on how to cope with a birth if you are caught short.

By Georgina Gold

IT is the nightmare that all parents-to-be dread. The baby, expected in several weeks time, decides to make an unexpected early arrival.

What do you do? Where do you go? How should you prepare for the birth of your child?

As many mothers have discovered, it does not matter whether you are watching TV or pushing the trolley round the supermarket — if a baby is about to be born there is nothing you can do to stop it.

But there are ways to make it safer and less worrying.

And even if the birth takes place in the back of a taxi on the way to the hospital, the message from the experts is — DON'T PANIC. Anybody is capable of delivering a baby so long as they stay calm and follow certain simple guidelines.

A senior obstetrician for Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital in London, which deals with more than 4,500 pregnant women each year, has clear and simple advice for

anyone who finds themselves having to deliver a baby at home — or anywhere else for that matter!

He says: "Unexpected births happen a lot more often than people think. It's the kind of thing everyone reads about, but never expects to happen to them. The main thing is not to worry. The baby will be born, and anyone can deliver it. Worrying only makes things worse."

"Women having a baby for the first time need not worry quite as much since childbirth usually takes longer the first time, and you get plenty of warning signs."

"It's far more likely to happen in the second or third pregnancy."

"There is no minimum time for labour — it can be just minutes, and some women may not even realise they're in labour. Some only get backache."

Queen Charlotte's hospital has countless tales of babies born in taxis, supermarkets or even at home while waiting for an ambulance.

Reassuringly, most of them were born completely healthy



Tiny miracle: a new-born baby, still attached to its mother by the umbilical cord.

and with no problems. But what is the right thing to do if you unexpectedly get caught out?

Firstly, forget the old idea that you need gallons of hot water.

A hospital spokesman says: "I really don't know where this idea came from. There's absolutely no need for hot water."

"You don't really need anything at all. But if you want to, a pair of scissors and some string might be useful to cut the umbilical cord."

Advice "Once the baby has been born, all you do is tie some string around two sections of the cord and cut it in between. The cord will then fall off on its own."

The next thing to remember is to take care NOT to drop the baby. This may sound obvious, but in the confusion it can easily happen.

Then make sure there are plenty of towels to wrap up the new-born baby. One of the commonest causes of death in young babies is connected with the cold. Don't forget, the difference in temperature between a mother and the outside world can be considerable. Babies

can't control their temperature as well as adults can.

The experts also advise not to bathe the baby immediately after its birth, but suggest it is better to wipe him or her with a towel and then keep them warm.

But the experts say it is always better to get a woman in labour to hospital as soon as possible. If this isn't possible, then get in touch with the hos-



Bath time: the baby has been born, and now it is time to clean up.

ital or the midwife. Never let a woman in labour drive. Take her by car, ambulance or taxi, whichever is quickest.

If it's too late for this, and she has started to give birth, NEVER leave her on her own. It may be tempting to run next-door to get help, but the woman needs someone with her, if only for moral support. If anything starts to go wrong, at least you are on hand to help or telephone the hospital.

If the woman is bleeding after she has given birth, you can be sure there is something seriously wrong and she needs to see a doctor. Make sure she stays completely still while you ring for an ambulance.

Time is all-important, and a few valuable minutes saved on a shorter journey could make all the difference.

Apart from the problem of bleeding, there's also the danger that the birth could have complications only a doctor would notice.

If the baby is lying awkwardly, for example the hospital will have to perform an immediate Caesarian section.

In such rare emergencies the Obstetric Flying Squad comes into its own. The team of medical experts — midwife, dire emergencies and are equipped to deal with any difficulty or potentially dangerous birth any time of day or night.

In more straightforward cases, teams of midwives are permanently on call, and will be sent to help the woman give birth. It is illegal for a birth to take place at home with no midwife present.

War on 'Eve teasers'

Police in the Indian capital of New Delhi, are cracking down on the sexual harassment that thousands of women face every day on the public transport system.

By Robert Mahoney

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): Rush hour in Delhi. A hundred people, mostly men, cram into a stifling bus built for 60.

A hand slithers through the press of bodies to grab a woman. She protests. Passengers look away, and another victim of 'Eve teasing', the Indian term for sexual harassment, goes unnoticed.

Hundreds, probably thousands of women and girls are molested daily on public transport in the Indian capital.

The problem has become so bad that a police crackdown was launched in February.

"Anyone here got a complaint?" asks a khaki-clad sergeant boarding a bus, "any girl had a problem?"

No response. Perhaps the conditioned shame, which stops many Indian women from reporting even crimes like rape and wife-beating, keeps lips sealed.

"These police measures will go a long way to stopping the crime," said Deputy Police Commissioner Pradeep Srivastava.

He has ordered patrol vans at 25 points in the city to halt buses and check for eye teasers during the afternoon when women students and schoolgirls are returning home.

Delhi bus drivers were already under orders to drive without stopping to the nearest police station if a passenger complained of harassment. Women say the drivers rarely ever did this.

"Now drivers will be able to stop at these checks," Srivastava said in an interview. "The man who is pointed out will be taken down and the bus allowed to proceed."

"In the first instance it should be enough to pull down a few of these fellows to deter others and show the police mean business."

According to those running a women's help group called Saheli, a solution to the

problem will require a lot more. While welcoming any police action that might curb Eve teasing, the women, most of whom have been assaulted several times, are sceptical.

"One day I got so fed up I decided to act," said Rekha, a Saheli volunteer and martial-arts student. Rekha is a pseudonym. None of the volunteers gave their real names.

"I caught hold of the man and dragged him off... fortunately there was a police box near the bus stop," she said.

It took three hours for her to register her complaint. She lost half a day's work and said the offender bribed his way out of trouble.

Harassment "No wonder women don't go to the police," she said.

More than 2,000 harassment cases were reported to Delhi police last year, a tiny fraction of the number of incidents that occur, women's organisations say.

Nobody can estimate just how under-reported harassment is, but almost every woman has a tale to tell.

Unmarried women avoid travelling alone at night on buses and in the city's three-wheeled autorickshaws and taxis. Police patrol outside women's colleges. Schools ferry their girls in single-sex buses.

Unmarried women, especially students, are easy game, said A. Anandakrishna, principal of Delhi University's Lady Irwin College.

She said harassment springs in part from the sexually repressive culture of North India, where in many places Muslim women are veiled and Hindu women cover their faces on seeing a man.

There is also a class element here... women students are often upper middle class and so normally inaccessible to these men," she said. Eve-teasers are generally

poorly educated men in their early 20s who have often left the family home to look for work in the city, say people who have been studying the situation.

Two questions about the harassment have kept psychologists and social scientists hushy theorising. Why is eve-teasing so common and why particularly in Delhi and surrounding areas?

Harassment in Madras or Calcutta is no worse than in any other major city in the world.

The answer to the first question for many academics is the position of the Indian male.

"Men are brought up to be brats and over-indulged," Anandakrishna said. "A male child is valued more than a girl and given better food and treatment."

Spoiled from birth, a man often views a woman as an object, a possession. In India's extended family system the only check on his behaviour may be the shame an action might bring on his relatives rather than the guilt he would feel as an individual.

"We are socialised for shame not guilt," Anandakrishna said. "A man is told 'if you do this we will tell your family', so his conscience-keepers are outside him."

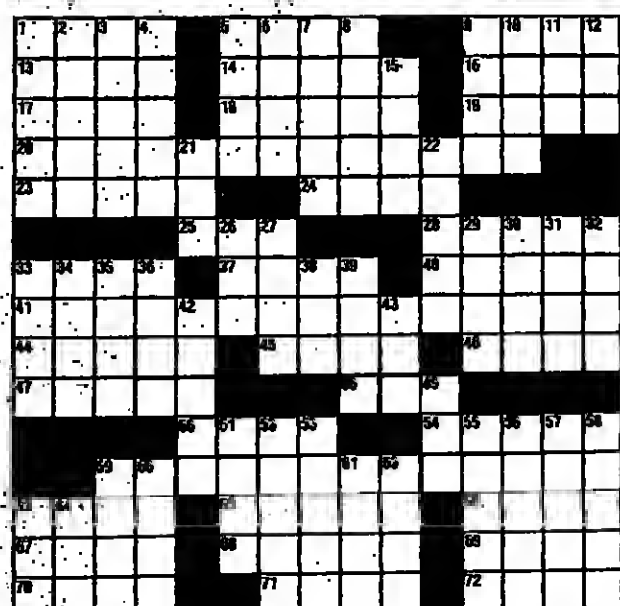
"If that man then leaves his family for the city he also leaves his conscience behind."

And the answer to the second question? According to one theory, in North India boys are even more spoiled than in the South. By custom women here must marry outside their village or extended family.

They arrive as a nobody at their in-laws' home where their only hope of becoming somebody is to produce a son whom they coddle and protect as their investment in a better future.

"If these theories are right then women are not going to be rid of eve-teasers by a few policemen stopping buses. It will take social revolution," said Rekha.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- end (over)
 - Avian sears
 - Bulky package
 - Venus de
 - Plains Indian
 - Pitcher
 - Keep — (persevere)
 - Sliding center
 - Docile
 - Section of Brooklyn
 - Some is common
 - Streep, for example
 - poetess
 - Cerify
 - Prophet from Tekoa
 - Romance lang.
 - Accustom
 - Peak in Glacier National Park
 - Put an end to
 - Army meal
 - Auto pioneer
 - Shearer of ballet fama
 - Earl Grey, for one
 - Squealers
 - "In the — of" (surrounded)
 - Residence of Archbishop of Canterbury
 - Agenda part
 - Fault at Shea
 - Algerian port
 - Tryst
 - Curtain
 - Peter, the pianist
 - Arabian Sea gulf
 - Tarzan of the
 - Capital of Yemen
- DOWN**
- File up
 - Contribution to
 - support a church
 - Strange
 - Do, re and mi
 - Turkish weights
 - "You Were Here"
 - Smooth gaits
 - Kind of ahirt or suit
 - Key letter
 - Putting position
 - Moon vehicle
 - "I saw Elba"
 - "Forever — day"
 - Shell-game essential
 - Whiz kid
 - Manipulate
 - Part of a rose
 - "us a child is born"
 - Twotold
 - Eye part
 - Comb. form
 - Sawbucks
 - Composer Khachaturian
 - War of racing fama
 - Spectrum's rival
 - Goad
 - Sout: Fr.
 - Missing
 - Type of clock
 - Application
 - MD's gp.
 - Retired
 - firma
 - Belt
 - One of the Masses
 - Ventured
 - Petrify
 - Joint part
 - "smile be your..."
 - 60 Final word
 - "Man's —"
 - Malroux novel
 - FDR or HST
 - June words
 - Baret a cousin

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ABASE WADE BOS
BORAX ICED SOAP
BOTTLING LINE ATTU
BOTTLE ADOES ENTER
SEDATEES WAGON
PIER SERUM
ASHES NEED ISEE
SPINE EVE INUSE
PATE OASAR TEPEE
BRIANS SSE
ROGUE FULMARS
BATIK RICA SETA
ANTE ROCKBOTTOM
LEDS ASHE SERGE
DEM PEER TRIDYS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
USE YOUR TRUMPS WISELY

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 5
♥ K Q 9 2
♦ K 6 4
♣ 10 8 6 4

EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ A 7 4 3
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ A 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 9 4
♥ 8 5
♦ A 8 3
♣ K 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♣

When we were learning the game at our mothers' knees, we were told about the players roaming the streets shoeless because they forgot to draw trumps. No one told us they were falling over their friends who drew trumps too soon.

South's rehid of four spades doesn't thrill us. With a balanced hand and seven running tricks, we could make a persuasive argument

in favor of three no trump. As the cards lie, neither contract should have caused problems, but at four spades declarer became careless.

He won the opening diamond lead in hand and immediately drew three rounds of trumps. Then he led a heart toward dummy. West played low and the queen won, but declarer found that he had left himself with a minor problem—he had no way to get back to his hand to lead another heart up to the table's honor. With nothing better to do, he led a club toward his king, hoping that he would find the aces split. That was not the case. West won and forced out the king of diamonds, and declarer still had to concede a heart and a trick in each side suit for down one.

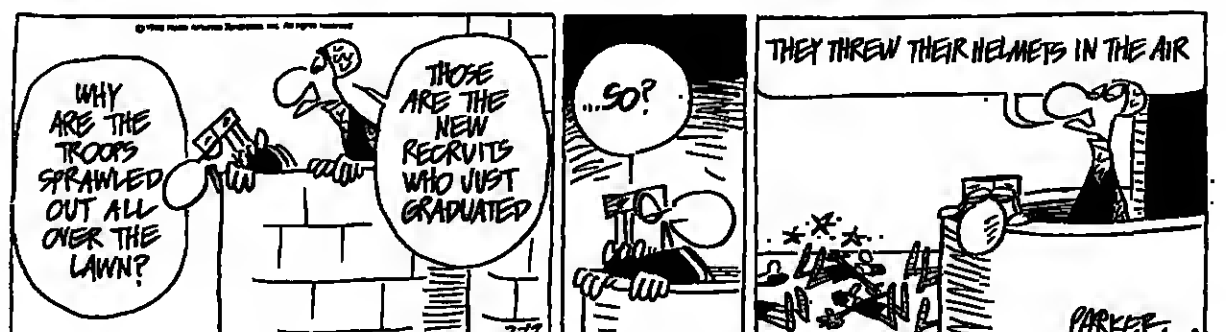
Declarer had cut his own communications when he drew trumps. He could afford one round of trumps, but then he should have led a heart. When the queen holds, he can get back to hand with a trump and, after drawing the outstanding trump, lead another heart up to dummy's honor. With the ace on side, declarer will be able to set up a heart for a club discard while the king of diamonds is still on the board to serve as an entry.



"Just because it's your turn to change his diaper!"

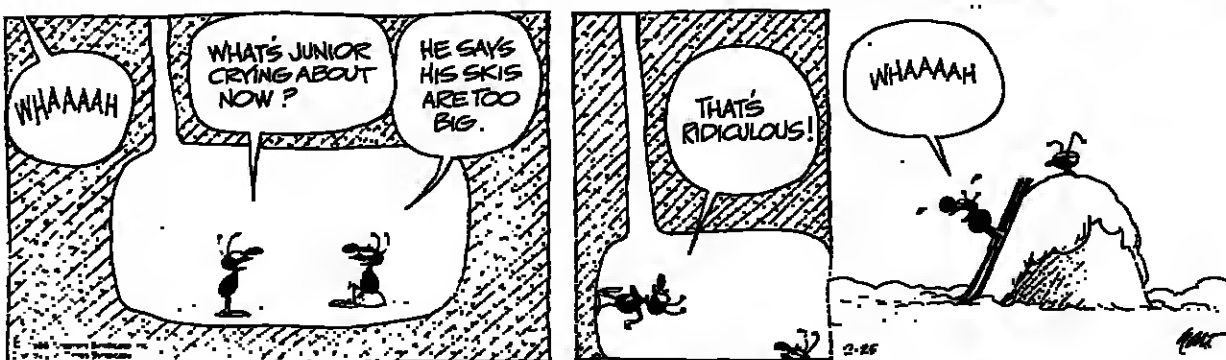
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
The prospects for you are pretty good, only you must not exaggerate. You should try to calm your nerves. Do not let others take advantage of you. Be resilient.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
It would be silly to pay interest on a loan if you can pay in cash. Do not think you have no more to learn. You should not think you are always right. Be realistic.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
You will be able to avail yourself of a good opportunity. You should try to avoid chasing spectres. Make sure you make your meaning clear. Be frank.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)**
You will tend to be a little on the timid side. You should not rely too heavily on gadgets, but nor should you eschew them. You are rather liable to say something you do not quite mean. Be less insistent.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You will be able to do something to make your partner happy. Avoid behaving as though you had all the money in the world. You should endeavour to make your meaning clear. Be tolerant.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
You should try not to get things out of proportion. A tendency towards indolence will have to be combated. Give yourself a little more room for manoeuvre. Be sensible.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You should avoid doing anything that might give rise to jealousy or resentment. You will tend to be rather preoccupied and you might well miss the point. Watch your diet. Be loyal.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You should avoid making a mountain out of a molehill. Before all else make sure you are able to meet your commitments. Avoid trying to do too much all at once. Be cordial.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
Make sure you do not delay paying your debts. You will find the solution to a problem that has been bothering you. Make sure you do not neglect your health. Be consistent.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You will have some good ideas but they may not be immediately applicable. You should avoid lingering until you have to rush to get things done. Have a little more respect for others. Be magnanimous.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
You should do all you can to try to keep things simple. You must not do anything that you know to be a health risk. You should not take a joke seriously. Be reliable.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
There will be some moments of confusion, but you will soon see your way clear. You should try to show how much you love your partner. Do not neglect some essential repairs about the house.

Priscilla Presley's best-selling novel comes to the screen

Truth about Elvis — by his wife

By Ivor Davis

CULVER CITY, Calif.: It is like stepping into another world, from the harsh California sunshine into a dark womb both gloomy and gaudy. Heavy red drapes block the light as the air conditioner whirs 24 hours a day. The deep carpets are red and black; the walls, black and padded. There are three 16-inch colour-TV sets: two embedded in the ceiling above the custom-made king-size bed, the third at its foot.

On bedside tables sit three phones next to a well-worn Bible and a statue of the Virgin Mary. There are books about martial arts, another titled "I Believe in Miracles." In the drawer sits a loaded pistol.

This is Elvis Presley's private bedroom at Graceland in Memphis, Tenn. It was in the adjoining bathroom, with its black marble and gold fixtures, that the rock star died a decade ago at the age of 42 of heart failure caused by high blood pressure.

Since his death the Presley suite has been sealed. Millions of fans visit Graceland daily, but the upstairs bedroom is locked even to family members.

However, the secrets of Elvis' room are unveiled on the four-hour ABC-TV movie *Elvis and Me*, which is based on the best seller by Priscilla Presley, *Elvis' ex-wife*.

The bedroom, along with other spaces in the Presley mansion, have been re-created for the movie — down to Elvis' photos of his mother Gladys, the books he read, the food he ate and the plaques and mementoes he collected.

Thanks to Priscilla's influence, the doors to Elvis' suite were unlocked. Priscilla, a regular on "Dallas" and co-producer of the film, decided that if the story was to be authentically re-created Elvis' lair had to be shown.



Dale Midkiff (as Elvis) and Susan Walters (as Priscilla Presley) in the TV movie *Elvis and Me*.

Under tight secrecy the film has been shot with two unknown actors playing Elvis and Priscilla. Dale Midkiff, 28, who plays the pop singer and Susan Walters, 24, won over more than 500 hopefuls for the part of Mrs Presley.

Elvis and Me is the story of a teenager who is swept off her feet by the rock-'n'-roll giant. In her book Priscilla says Presley "became my father; husband and very nearly God." And in the process he nearly destroyed her.

Co-producer Robert Lovenheim insists that the film will not be sanitised even though it carries the Priscilla seal of approval. In fact, she wants it to contain a strong anti-drug message for young people, he says.

Lovenheim says that to the young Priscilla, who was brought up in a tough, disciplined military home, the Presley bedroom must have

seemed like a fantasyland.

"But to us it was more strange and bizarre than Priscilla would ever think. It was his self-created prison. At the time she may have perceived Elvis as the man who was everything to her, who was both kind and manipulative, close and distant. But for the film you have to create a character who was not always the smiling, lovable rock-'n'-roll idol we know," he says.

"We have scenes in the Graceland attic. To this day the attic has every piece of clothing Gladys Presley owned. Everything has been saved. He never threw out anything. And who he was tied up with his haunting memory of his mother, which was probably the most important relationship in his life, other than Priscilla," says Lovenheim.

There is another odd twist to the movie. The producers could

not obtain permission to use the real Presley recordings, so viewers have to hear country-western singer Ronnie McDowell perform Elvis' songs as Midkiff lip-synchs them.

Walters, who ages from 14 to her mid-30s during the film, has 120 costume changes; Midkiff makes more than 80 in the \$8 million picture.

"One day I am Priscilla at 14, an hour later I am about to get married, then I am pregnant or a mother with a young daughter, learning that Elvis may be cheating on me. In the afternoon I am over 30, telling Elvis that I do not want us to get back together. What has helped most is the wig changes, which sorted out the different blocks of time," says Walters.

"It is hard to do the scene at the end when Priscilla reacts to Elvis as a bloated figure, barely recognisable. The main thing about the story is that they were in love; they even held hands at the divorce," she says.

Understand

"Priscilla helped me understand the way she behaved when she was younger. In my marriage if (my husband and I) have a difference of opinion we discuss it or argue. But with Elvis you did not do that; you did not push him. Elvis was her life. She was not in college, she did not have a career — she had Elvis. To lose him would be to lose her life, because she had left her family. Today it is different; she has a career and a child. She tried to have a career but Elvis didn't want that," she says.

Midkiff prepared for the role by watching more than 100 hours of Elvis concert footage, listening to his music and reading "Elvis and Me." He also got a lot of advice from Priscilla.

"When we first met she smiled and said, 'I wouldn't want to be in your shoes,'" he says. "I didn't want to do another



Elvis and Priscilla Presley on their wedding day.

Elvis impersonation or turn him into a cardboard character. Priscilla helped me with his mannerisms. Priscilla told me he walked tall... like a huff. He never sat still, he bounced around, he tapped his feet, drummed his fingers. He had so much energy. I also took karate classes with world champions who knew (and taught) Elvis and Priscilla," he says.

"After doing the role for weeks I began to feel I was Elvis. I would catch myself doing him when I answered the phone. I would talk to friends in an Elvis voice. I tried to show his human side, that he was not a monster who swallowed pills and ended up 70 pounds heavier than he should have been. He was a perfectionist and he got upset

when something did not go right. He had a wild temper and crazy black moods," he says.

"Elvis' life had lots of dichotomies... from being the good Christian country boy to being a superstar who loved everything that went with being the best," says Midkiff.

For Midkiff, however, the real stamp of approval on his performance came during the filming of the concert scenes at the Las Vegas Hilton where he cavorted as Elvis onstage, sweating off 7 pounds in the process.

"At the end of a long day," says Midkiff, "a man came up, introduced himself and said, 'You did real fine my boy.'" It was Col Tom Parker, Elvis' manager.

Tough guys do act

By Arthur Herman

LONDON, (UPI): Bob Hoskins is best known for gangster roles and a menacing physique he describes as "5 feet 6 by 5 feet 6".

But the high-energy Englishman is a dedicated, versatile actor, and his reputation is bound to get a boost from his work in *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*.

Hoskins says he's probably known as a thug "because I'm a cockney and people think that cockneys are crooks. You walk in a house with a cockney accent and immediately they lock up the silver and send the women upstairs."

But the gangland image Hoskins developed in *Mona Lisa*, *The Long Good Friday* and *The Cotton Club* will be jolted by *Judith Hearne*, in which he plays opposite two-time Oscar winner Maggie Smith, one of the greats of the British stage.

"The core of the movie is the acting," said Hoskins, 44, in a recent interview. "There's no guns going off. There's no dead bodies."

"There's nothing to thrill you except the emotions portrayed and some people will go for it and some won't. I think it's a classic."

Smith plays a lonely Irish spinster who moves into a Dublin boarding house and meets a fast-talking, middle-aged Irishman who has returned after living in New York City for 30 years.

"He's a mug," Hoskins says of his character. "You realise by the end of the film that he's as lost and lonely as she is and he's realised it too, but he's balled it up."



Bob Hoskins

He speaks in the film like a native New Yorker but said achieving the right accent was not the problem.

"I could get 10 guys from New York here and they'd all speak different," he said. "It's just finding the character, finding the psyche of the character is what is so difficult."

What persuaded him to take the part was the opportunity to play opposite Smith.

"We first rehearsed and within 30 minutes we were in character," he said. "She's extraordinary. She'll take a scene, wrap it up in pure velvet and give it back to you."

"That's flowery language coming from someone whose resume includes such jobs as truck driver, steeplejack, porter, mango picker and bookkeeper."

The story goes that Hoskins stumbled into acting at 25 when he was discovered boozing at a theatre.

"Previously, I just wasn't in that world," he said, "wanting to be an actor was like wanting to be a brain surgeon. I just didn't think it was possible."

The only qualification he could cite was "I've always liked people and playing a role is playing people... I do it 'cause I love it."

In addition to *Judith Hearne*, 1988 will see a rash of Hoskins movies including *The Raggedy Rawney*, filmed in Czechoslovakia.

In yet another new film, Hoskins appears with Mickey Rourke and Alan Bates in *A Prayer For The Dying* about Northern Ireland terrorism.

The new empress of China

By David Lewin

JOAN CHEN is China's own film star — the Elizabeth Taylor of the People's Republic, she is called.

When she was 18, she won the Golden Rooster — the Chinese equivalent of the Oscar — as the best actress, and then the 100 Blossoms award as the most popular star. Her salary at the time was slightly less than £4 a month. It went up to £12 a month after her success.

Joan Chen is now the star with Peter O'Toole and John Lone of *The Last Emperor* — a British-produced epic and the first movie ever to be allowed to shoot in the Forbidden City of Beijing.

Joan Chen is 26 now, an exquisite beauty with long dark hair, fine dark brown eyes and a slight figure. She is 5ft 4 ins and weighs 7 stone 12lb.

Married to Hong Kong-born film-maker Jimmy Lau, Joan Chen lives with him in Hollywood. Her parents — her father is a radiologist and her mother a specialist in pharmacology — still live in Shanghai.

I met Joan Chen on location in China for *The Last Emperor*: it was her second trip home since she went to America to live seven years ago.

She is as far removed from the accepted image of a Hollywood star as it is possible to be.

When she was 14 she was discovered at school in Shan-

ghai by talent scouts from the city's film studios who were looking for someone to play a guerrilla girl in a film about the Long March.

"I could shoot because I wanted to join the Red Army," she said. "I had two lines of dialogue in the movie and we had three days of professional training and three days of political training, before we started filming."

"We were taught not to pursue personal fame or glory, but to work hard for the cause and to make films for the good of the country and the people. In Hollywood it is reverse: there you work for the fame and glory."

"Halfway through the film *Jinjiang Mountain*, production was cancelled for political reasons. I was disappointed — but not heartbroken."

"Then I was sent on a two-year drama course in the Shanghai studios. I lived in a dormitory there, with six girls and 20 boys. 'It was the first time I had really met any boys and it wasn't until I was 20 and went to California that I actually had a boyfriend.'"

After her two film awards, Chinese boys started to notice Joan Chen for the first time. And that was different from America too.

"Boys wrote me letters. Some fan letters, some love letters," she told me. "Chinese boys don't talk to you — they write letters. Even if they don't meet you, they write — and never

about sex. Only love. If they do, the girl is immediately turned off. Sex is dirty."

"In the West it is a heavenly gift and the ultimate experience. In China we were taught it was nasty."

Joan Chen's parents were sent to America by the government to study there and finally, after a six-month delay she was given a passport herself.

"In China I had been a star — in New York I went to university and I was unknown and it was a much freer life. I was propositioned pretty quickly."

There were other differences between the two countries. "In China when a girl starts to have full breasts, she walks stooped forward to disguise them. It is not considered good to show them. No man would ever look you up and down," Joan Chen said.

"In America I found the more you have here (she indicated her breasts), the better. Now that I am back in China, I find there is still a physical distance between people."

"I never hugged my mother when I was a child, or my father, and I wanted to. My mother is more Westernised now and she like to hug us. But my father still does not. Most mothers in China still do not."

When she went to Los Angeles and started to try to act, there were other surprises. "I had to start from zero and build again," she said. Then she



Joan Chen (right) in Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Last Emperor*

won small parts in television. "Do you want some tea, Mr Hammer?" was her first line in the series *Mike Hammer*.

She worked in Miami Vice and went for an audition at a studio for the TV film *Tai Pan*. "I was in the parking lot and a man in a car followed me, stuck his head out of a window and asked if I knew that Lana Turner had been discovered in a drug store," she said.

"I thought he was trying to pick me up. But he was Dino de Laurentis, the producer, and I got the lead."

Her role in *The Last Emperor* is to be given to the emperor as a wife. Her beauty is shrouded as her new husband ventures a kiss, while attendant female hands slowly disrobe the young lovers.

Joan Chen found coming back home for the film to be a disturbing experience. "In Hollywood with my husband I had a house, a garden and a pool," she explained.

By Joan Hananer

NEW YORK, (UPI): James Clavell's "Noble House" presents the new Pierce Brosnan — tough, unsmiling, dangerous — as a wheeler-dealer Hong Kong businessman with a very good tailor.

The show is another glitzy miniseries with beautiful people, fascinating scenery, sexy women and a few too many Chinese proverbs.

It also lasts a long time — eight hours spread over four days on NBC, Sunday through Wednesday, in America.

Brosnan plays Ian Struan Dunross, the Tai-pan or leader of Struan's, the oldest and most powerful Hong Kong trading company, also called the Noble House.

The real theme of this max-length miniseries is greed, however, and there's nothing very noble about any of the characters. They are all out for megahucks, good guys and bad.

The plot involves Dunross' efforts to put Struan's in the black.

It has been on shaky financial footing since the previous Tai-pan gambled and lost in pursuit of the almighty Hong Kong dollar. Dunross' plans for Struan's involve teaming up with American corporate huckster Linc Bartlett (Ben Masters) and his associate, Casey Tcholak, played by beautiful Deborah Raffin.

Bartlett, who numbers double-dealing among his better business practices, also is negotiating with Quillian Gornit, Dunross' business rival and hater. Gornit is played with enormous zest by John Rhys-Davies and he's more fun to watch than anybody in the cast.

Well, almost. Compulsive girl-watchers might have more fun ogling absolutely smashing Julia Nickson as Orlanda Ramos, Gornit's Eurasian ex-girlfriend who has been promised a new Jaguar (car, not animal) if she "distracts" Bartlett.

She does, which is not surprising, particularly when she

Noble House: in pursuit of the mighty Hong Kong dollar



Pierce Brosnan (left) stars in TV epic *Noble House*.

wears a dress almost literally slashed to her navel.

It is possible that Ivan Bosky would understand the financial follies of "Noble House" but fortunately the viewer doesn't have to.

Just take it on faith that Dunross one minute can be begging money from a Chinese gangster named four-fingered Wu, who carries a grudge against "foreign devils" and the next is able to pull millions out of a red Chinese former schoolmate.

Along with the financial finagling, there is a catastrophic fire at a floating restaurant that adds excitement, as does the collapse of a skyscraper apartment house in a mudslide.

There's also a complication involving a half-coin. The Tai-pan must grant any favour the bearer of the coin fragment

asks or else lose face, which in Hong Kong is even worse than losing your wallet.

The favorite word in this complicated story is "joss," which means luck or fate. No matter what happens, the characters shrug it off as "joss."

Despite the big cast and complex action, the miniseries belongs to Pierce Brosnan, who is on camera almost throughout. Dunross is a long way from his old TV character of Remington Steele, the light-hearted smiling private detective.

Dunross seldom smiles, never jokes and has occasional flashes of nasty temper.

"It was very different from Remington Steele," Brosnan said in an interview. "He's a very serious character, but after all, the man's empire is being

attacked and everything is crumbling."

"He's very high-powered and dangerous in his handling of situations. He also is a man with a certain amount of remoteness, a loner in essence."

The film was shot in Hong Kong for about three months, and finished up in North Carolina.

It is the kind of show that offers total escapism amid the rich and beautiful, with exotic backgrounds, expensive sets — Dunross' office is spectacular — and elegant wardrobes. It also has the virtue of not taking itself too seriously, as when a jealous man eyes a beautiful courtesan hooked up with an old man and says, "Even she, with all the technique I have taught her, cannot teach a noodle to dance."

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: You often mention chemotherapy to treat cancer, but what is it?

ANSWER: Very simply, chemotherapy is a form of cancer treatment that uses chemicals or drugs to hunt out cancer cells and stop them from multiplying. You see, cancer cells are different from normal cells because they don't know when to stop dividing. They grow and grow (forming a clump of cells called a tumor) until they crowd out all the normal cells and stop the affected organ from working properly. This original tumor also can shed cells that travel to other parts of the body and start new tumors (metastases) which eventually cause a breakdown of the whole system.

Given orally or injected into the muscles or veins, these drugs have one goal: to improve the quality of a patient's life either by curing certain cancers or keeping the cancer under control for a long time. How long and how often medication is given, as well as the kinds of drugs chosen, depends on the type of cancer the patient has. Usually the treatments are given in intervals with rest periods in between. And, in some people, but not all, anti-cancer drugs can produce side effects.

CHEMOTHERAPY USES DRUGS OR CHEMICALS TO FIGHT CANCER

Actually, for many people, the fear of side effects is as great as concern as the disease itself. Yet most of the time, reactions to chemotherapy are reversible and temporary and may quickly disappear after treatment stops. Two of the most troublesome are gastrointestinal upsets and hair loss (alopecia).

Because the mouth, stomach and intestines are lined with rapidly growing cells (just the kind of cells chemotherapy drugs like to attack), some people find anticancer medications upset their insides, often causing nausea and vomiting. Generally, eating small, frequent meals and avoiding spicy, greasy foods will offer some relief. Also, there are several anti-nausea drugs which the doctor may prescribe.

Hair loss is not so easy to deal with. The scalp too has rapidly dividing cells that may be affected by the chemotherapy. The only consolation is — it's temporary. Some patients even report their new hair is silkier and thicker than before.

Other possible complications are anaemia, bruising (due to low platelet count) and lowered resistance to colds and other infections. Skin rashes, muscle weakness,

temporary fertility problems, as well as stress on the kidneys and emotional changes may occur. The important thing to remember is everyone reacts differently to treatment. Knowing what could happen doesn't mean it will!

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: Have you ever considered all those little phrases we use in daily speech that refer to our breathing apparatus? "Short of breath," "a bit winded," "gasping for air" are all indications that perhaps our lungs may need some special attention. Certainly our lungs are prone to many types of disease, with some causes that can be prevented, if only we knew how, or took the time to learn. Pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma, occupational lung disease, emphysema and all the effects from smoking, just to name a few, respond to the right treatment and care. You can learn how, by writing to the American Lung Association, Box 596-AB, New York, N.Y. 10019, which will respond to your questions by linking you with folks in your local association chapters, with resources right at your doorstep. Why not write today... for your lungs' sake?

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ANDY CAPP



Astrology playing major role in Indian politics

By Trish Saywell

NEW DELHI, India (UPI): In a dark backstairs room of a seedy downtown hotel, a man in a three-piece suit and gold earrings quietly studies the cosmos to divine the fortunes of some of India's political elite.

R. G. Kalra once worked as a government clerk. He only dabbed in astrology until a newspaper printed his forecast that the then-ruling Janata party would lose to former prime minister Indira Gandhi in a crucial 1978 election. She won and he lost his job.

Now he works full time in astrology, which plays a vital role in Indian politics. Kalra claims of his star-gazing clients are senior officials and Members of Parliament.

"They invite me to their homes, serve coffee and expect that I will read their stars for free," said Kalra. "They think I should feel honoured."

As evidence, the portly, mustache-chained smoker waved at calling cards displayed under his glass desktop, including that of H. K. L. Bhagat, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's minister for parliamentary affairs.

"At least 90 per cent of the politicians in this country consult astrologers to find out about their political prospects," said Kuldip Nayar, one of India's most prominent columnists. "Originally only Hindus believed in astrology, but its popularity has spread among other groups, including Muslims."

Such is the influence of astrology that the last British viceroy of India, Lord Louis Mountbatten, changed the nation's independence day when astrologers decreed his chosen date — Aug 14, 1947 — as inauspicious for India.

Mrs Gandhi was notorious for consulting her astrologers on matters of state, including election scheduling, planning official itineraries and setting travel dates.

Former prime minister Morarji Desai, Charan Singh and Jagjivan Ram all held court with private astrologers.

"It's part of our ethos, and though many realise that 50 per cent of the predictions may not come true, they still have faith in it," said right-wing opposition leader A. B. Vajpayee, who denied that he consults his stars.

Question

"The most common question politicians ask these days is how long they will hold office," said O. T. Ojha, astrologer and palmist at one of the capital's five-star hotels. "If they think their political clout is waning, they invariably ask how to pacify the stars in order to get it back."

If the configuration of stars is deemed bad, many Hindus believe their luck can be changed with the help of tantriks, who specialise in propitiating the gods for a fee. Tantriks recite mantras, burn clarified butter and break coconuts for the politician in trouble.

When the fortunes of the Janata party were flagging and advisors urged Desai to take action, he reportedly refused, arguing that an astrologer had told him that he would stay in power for another 24 years. He served for only two.

Even Rajiv Gandhi, 42, occasionally sheds his professed secularism. In a recent attempt to end India's worst drought of this century, he participated in a ceremony propitiating the Hindu fire god.

"This is an auspicious day," said a grey-bearded astrologer. "Something good will come of it."

"Fatalism is greater here than in any other part of the world," said S. C. Tiwari, head of the anthropology department at Delhi University. "This is particularly true in the rural areas where consultations are widely done."

Three out of four Hindu families have astrological charts prepared for their children at birth. The charts are consulted for guidance on educational, career, marital and financial matters. Family astrologers are an institution in India.

"It wasn't this way in Jawaharlal Nehru's time," journalist Saeed Nagvi said of India's first prime minister.

"What was once a feudal society where the rich and well-educated held political power has in the last 40 years expanded its base," he said.

By Bonnie Johnson

EVER since Elizabeth II became Queen of England in 1952, she has received hundreds of proposals from British journalists eager to write about her legendary private collection of jewellery from the most dazzling tiara down to the most trivial baubles, bangles and brooches. No, said the Queen, she thought not. Then four years ago writer Leslie Field, a transplanted American, decided to test the royal resolve one more time.

Field's notion was to do a book using the private collection (not to be confused with the Crown Jewels, worn by the Queen only on ceremonial occasions) to trace the historical continuity of the monarchy. "I knew from day one that this book would be Her Majesty's scrapbook," says Field. "Here's Granny, here's Mummy, here's me — all wearing the same brooch," she says. After sending her proposal to the palace, Field, 43, was told by a baffled press secretary, "I don't know how, and I don't know why, but the answer is yes."

The project consumed four difficult years of Field's life, and the result is the recently published *The Queen's Jewels* (The Personal Collection of Elizabeth II), a lavishly illustrated book about the history behind the Queen's private collection, which now includes more than 300 pieces.

Of these, some 50 pieces — including the most valuable item in the collection, the Cullinan Lesser Stars of Africa diamond brooch — are worn by the Queen herself.

She is free to do as she pleases with the entire collection, including lending pieces or giving them to friends or family such as Princess Anne or her tag-team daughters-in-law, Fergie and Di. So how much is



The original lover's knot tiara belonged to the Duchess of Cambridge, Queen Mary's grandmother.

A revealing look at Queen Elizabeth's personal collection

Jewels of the crown



All this sparkle worth? Field won't hazard a guess. "The collection is irreplaceable and unique," she says.

Discretion That kind of discretion may be one reason Field got the assignment to do the book. She believes she got the royal nod mostly because of her family scrapbook premise, but it helped that she promised to do her own pictures and research. Her only stipulation was that the palace agree to make the corrections. Even so, the task proved daunting. For the first two years she hurried herself in picture libraries and archives in London, totally neglecting her personal life. She sifted through 450,000 photographs, tracking rubies, sapphires, emeralds and diamonds.

Later Field worked out of Buckingham Palace. Royal etiquette forbids her from revealing whether she worked with the Queen herself. Corrections, she was told by the palace, would be made "by



In 1935, Queen Mary redesigned her copy of the tiara by having the top pearls removed.



The Ladies of India diamond (left) and emerald necklace is part of an eight-piece set, or parure, which also includes Princess Di's headband choker.

someone who knows." The comments of that knowing someone were usually terse and unrelenting. Entire sections of the book were returned to Field with only the word "no" scribbled in the margin.

Her account of one brooch came back marked "no" nine times until Field figured out that her mistake was in saying the Queen had "borrowed" it from the Queen Mother. "They did not think it appropriate that Her Majesty would borrow something," she explains.

Other royal family members were more forthcoming. Field says Princess Diana was "wonderful and punctilious; she had her corrections done in one day." Field does admit to having met Queen Elizabeth and describes her as a woman who "loves to laugh. When you tell her something funny, she throws her head back and just roars with laughter."

The Queen's approach to jewellery says Field, is "very



In 1959, the present Queen had it further redesigned.

sentimental. She usually wears the same 30 pieces." Her favourites include her diamond engagement ring, designed by Prince Philip, and the Kensington bow brooch, Field's personal favourite.

Although she grew up in New York City, Field claims she was always an Anglophile. She graduated from the Tony Dalton School, skipped college and worked her way up to fashion editor at Glamour before emigrating to England in 1971. Field, who retains her American citizenship, is also a naturalised British citizen. "I thought God had made a mistake that I was born there and I had to fix it," she explains.

In London, Field eventually became the fashion editor of the Sunday Times. Then, in 1978, she began a 2-year reign as the first woman, as well as the first foreigner, to head the 279-year-old Tatler magazine. More British perhaps than most natives, Field has over the



Princess Diana was given the tiara as a wedding gift in 1981.



Gable: image tarnished



W.C. Fields: pornographic

Move to protect celebrity images

By Ian Ball

IN life, Clark Gable certainly did give a damn about his image being used and abused by others for commercial gain.

His son, Mr John Clark Gable, holds similar views on the subject, and so, too, do the children of John Wayne, W.C. Fields, James Dean and other late Hollywood celebrities.

They were in New York recently for legislative hearings on a Celebrity Rights Act pending in the New York State Legislature.

New York is the home of the Madison Avenue advertising industry and the headquarters of many of the firms that produce greeting cards using photographs of celebrities.

Poachers, the relatives say, have been raking over the afterlife of the famous for years, and the situation is getting worse.

Gable's son arrived for the hearing clad in the same Western-style boots and corduroys his father wore in the 1961 film, *The Misfits*.

"My father was the King of Hollywood, and people are capitalising on his name," he told the hearing.

"Darn right I'm upset about seeing his image tarnished on greeting cards and T-shirts."

Mr Everett Fields, grandson of W.C. Fields, produced a "pornographic" poster of a "look-alike" of the comedian, showing him reclining in an exotic costume, white gloves, top hat, cane, bow tie

and nothing else.

Mr Fields said that despite his grandfather's outlandish on-screen antics, he would not have posed for such a poster.

"My grandfather expended a considerable amount of time, energy and money in developing and promoting his talent and identity," he said.

"Without recognition of the right of publicity, poachers can unjustly enrich themselves by reaping where they have not sown."

Mr Michael Wayne, son of John, held up a cigarette advertisement featuring his father to demonstrate the need for the Celebrity Rights Bill. The advertisement, adapted for a boarding in Spain, particularly irked the son because his father died of lung cancer.

Other witnesses produced associated items, including a promotional poster for a Pope look-alike, who would go to parties and bless people.

There were some dissenters. "This Bill creates rights for an elite, based on bloodlines," said Mr Richard Winfield, a lawyer for the publishers, Time Inc.

He said it would open a Pandora's box of lawsuits by celebrities' descendants against anyone who published a story or irreverent photograph.

The law, he said, could be invoked "any time these children of grandchildren could not get their price."

By Lynda Black

THEY are loud, frilly, brash and very, very silly. But there is no escaping it... the swinging fashions and music that made the 1970's the most ridiculous decade of the century are back.

Fabulous flares are big news in the clubs and the kind of gear once worn by Rod Stewart, Gary Glitter, Slade and the Bay City Rollers is now definitely in!

And for those who dared to flare the first time around — and are prepared to again — the news could not be better. The latest bell-bottomed fashions can cost as much as £55 for just one pair of trousers, while high waisted, cat-suits and platform shoes can be even more expensive.

Today, just as it was a decade



Singer Noddy from 70's pop group Slade. The bell bottoms and platform shoes are making a comeback.

Hold on to your flares and platforms

The 70's are back

If you still have your old flares, platform boots and cat-suit, you could be heading the latest fashion craze. The music and clothes of the swinging Seventies are back... and selling fast. So are you flaring to go?

ago, the fashionoo has been inspired by music.

Then, it was the tartan-clad Bay City Rollers who were 'shang-a-lan' surrounded by crowds of teenyboppers. In their calf-length "baggies" and platform boots, the five Rollers were fashion leaders as well as chart toppers.

Mothers who had swooned at the Beatles reeled in disgust at the sight of the outrageous Gary Glitter in his large-lapelled cat-suits. Leaving little to the imagination he used to strut around the stage in his glitter boots jeering "Do you wanna touch me?" Now he's back... still singing the same songs and wearing the same clothes (although maybe they are a size bigger).

So far the 70's fashion has really taken off in London's clubland. Now the dance floors are reverberating to the stomping of platform boots and the swish of flared trousers.

The new-look seventies is slicker and sharper than its predecessor, though its waist-hugging trousers with wide, wide legs mean trend-setters have to be in shape, too.

So, if you have got a wardrobe packed with your old clothes and a pencil-thin figure like Twiggy's you could be the most fashionable person around...

Fashion pundit Barry Sharpe of London's trendy West End boutique, Duffer of St George, says his seventies gear is selling like hot cakes.

"We've been staggered by a number of people who are now following the fashion," says Barry. "Only a little while ago our customers wouldn't have been seen dead wearing these clothes."

"But we don't stock platform shoes or anything like that. They didn't come on to the fashion scene until later."

"The seventies saw a lot of fashion variations. At the start of the decade, there were

cheese-cloth shirts, tank tops, clogs and Afghan coats which owned more to the fashion of the 1960's. It was only at the end of the seventies that you started to get the bell-bottomed suits and platform shoes."

"Many of the clothes were very badly made. That's why there is not much left over from the original era. Most of it was so shoddy it just fell apart."

Traditional

Duffer of St George not only stocks the traditional fashion lines — much of it suede — but has now recreated its own seventies-look clothing, too.

Barry adds: "We only specialise in quality gear, and the clothes we make fit much better. Try and get into some of the original clothes and it is physically impossible. The sizes just weren't realistic and they were incredibly uncomfortable to wear."

But Barry, who plays in a seventies band called Dinah Brown and the Brothers, admits he hates the fashion himself.

"It's the music which is bringing back the fashion, but I don't like it at all. The music is great... it is the sort of sound I grew up with. But the fashion is... ugh!"

According to Barry the latest craze in the super seventies is only just beginning.

He explains: "It's going to take off properly in the summer, because it is much more a fashion for the summer."

What has amazed the fashion world is the fact that the seventies fashion has been revived by teenagers too young to have been a part of it in the first place.

The youngsters are even clamouring for re-releases of 70's records and scouring music shops for copies of the original hits.

Yet, as far as most major fashion houses are concerned, the seventies look is strictly for one-off "alternative-types."



70's style striped flared trousers with a paisley shirt.

Zak Lee, fashion spokesman for top people's store, Harrods, in London, comments: "The seventies look was definitely noticeable in the spring collections, but we didn't buy any of them. It's not likely to be the sort of fashion that would appeal to our customers. It is a fashion more for the streets, than the places people like to wear with the clothes we sell."

Prospect

So, faced with the prospect of seeing others in hot pants and platform shoes this summer, I wondered what I would look like as a dedicated follower of fashion.

When I was confronted with the "seventies specials" bung on a rail to the back-room of Duffer of St George I suddenly had second, nearly third, thoughts.

For the ageing photographer, however, it was a trip down memory lane.

With a lot of pulling, shoving and tugging I squeezed into thigh-hugging hot pants and waist-revealing flares. That was the easy part. Then I had to face the camera.

Moscow's capitalist island

By Sophie Quinn-Judge

MOSCOW: On Moscow's eastern side, beyond Taganka Square, is the Kalitnikovskiy Market, better known as just "the bird market". Doves, pigeons, parakeets, and roosters can all be purchased here, as can kittens, dogs, fish, and rabbits. On Sunday mornings it's a jam-packed island of capitalism that draws the curious, families in search of pets, and large number of sellers.

Old and young women with kittens peaking out from their coats line the sidewalks leading to the market's gates. One with a part-Siamese in her string bag gets a scolding from her neighbour for letting her kitten get cold. The latter then shows her how to button it up close to her chest. Another woman is hawking a puppy with suspiciously big paws, with the claim that, "he won't get too big, he's short-haired — there won't be any mess."

In one corner, near the Kalitnikovskiy Cemetery, the first-class dog sellers gather. They have pure-bred terriers and borzois, photos of collie puppies with "good bloodlines," and monstrous, sad-eyed creatures that look like Saint Bernards. The saleslady says they're "Moscow Guard Dogs." Pointing to the monster on her leash, she says reassuringly, "He only needs three litres of food a day, 400 grams of meat, and the rest kasha (gruel)."

A month-old parakeet is going for 30 rubles, a homemade cage with a slide-out bottom for 25. "They'll be talking in a month or so," says the saleslady. "Just put on a recording for an hour everyday."

Another salesman with brilliantly coloured parrots has put a sign up: "They will talk." Yet another man has found a way to make a few rubles. He is selling mimeographed instructions on the care of songbirds, including speech lessons.

As elegant woman with two tiny Royal Siamese kittens is reluctant to be photographed. So is the rabbit salesman across the street, who has a row of cardboard boxes filled with different breeds and colours.

"No picture," he jokes. "This is a military installa-



A bright-eyed pooch peeks from owner's legs at Moscow's thriving bird and pet market.

tion." A post-graduate student, he says in English that rabbit-breeding is his hobby. He admits to making 200 rubles a month, just over the average monthly wage, from this pastime, however. His rabbits are fat and healthy-looking. In the city, you can keep them on your balcony, he says — they won't freeze.

Inside its gates, the market has a semblance of order: fish-sellers on one side, with a special row reserved for members of the Moscow Aquarium Club. On the other side are the dove and pigeon traders. There seem to be hundreds of them, and by midday the crowds get so dense that one can hardly move.

In the late November cold, the aquarium owners keep tubs of hot water at hand, which they ladle onto their tropical fish to keep them from freezing. Among the crowd are men with trays of maggots and other

larvae. As purveyors of fresh fish food, they appear to have a secure niche in the market.

Dove and pigeon breeding seem to be popular hobbies. A man from Podolsk sells his pure white doves for five rubles apiece. He keeps them for pleasure, he says, just to see them flying through the forest. Among the golubyaniki (dove breeders) are Muscovites who keep their birds in dot-cotes outside their apartment buildings.

One young man wants me to buy a dove for my daughter to release, as a dove of peace. This offer echoes an old custom, the releasing of caged birds for religious merit, a ritual some Russians still carry out at the grave of their relatives. The profit motive comes into play here, too: The birds are trained to return to their masters for another sale.

The Christian Science Monitor.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

US-Soviet grain pact talks to begin shortly

WASHINGTON, March 6, (Reuters): The United States and Soviet Union will begin negotiations on March 11 on a new long-term grain agreement, the Reagan administration said yesterday.

US Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng and special Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said the negotiations would be held in Vienna.

"We are optimistic we will be able to achieve another mutually beneficial agreement," the announcement by the US trade representative's office said.

Alan Holmer, deputy US trade representative, will lead the US delegation. The team will also include officials from the agriculture and state departments and other US trade officials.

The current nonbinding five-year US-Soviet grain agreement expires on September 30 and calls for minimum yearly purchases of American grain by Moscow of nine million tonnes.

"We look forward to our discussions with the Soviets on a new US-Soviet long-term grain agreement. We expect the Vienna meeting to be the first step in the negotiating process," the announcement said.

Lyng told reporters he hoped negotiations would reach a speedy conclusion, but analysts have cautioned that a new grain agreement might not be easy to conclude.

Australian firm to buy more crude from Nigeria

LAGOS, March 6, (Opecna): An Australian oil company, Ampol Limited, plans to expand its present crude oil purchase contract with Nigeria, an official of the company, Henry Irving, said here.

Speaking at the opening of the company's office here, the official, who is also his company's European representative, said Ampol was currently negotiating with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) on crude oil and products, refining, exploration and joint-venture investments.

He said Ampol had lifted over \$400 million worth of crude oil from Nigeria, adding that the company "prides itself on being a loyal and reliable NNPC customer."

The Australian High Commissioner in Nigeria, R H Wyndham, said at the ceremony that the existing cooperation between his country and Nigeria would facilitate the exchange of their oil industry experience.

Nigerian trade team finds market in S. Arabia

LAGOS, March 6, (Opecna): A Nigerian trade mission which has just returned from Saudi Arabia has reported finding markets for the country's agricultural and industrial goods.

Kano state governor group captain Mohammed Umaru who led the mission told journalists in Kano on Tuesday that his team exploration areas which would enhance trade activities and generate foreign exchange earnings for Nigeria.

He said the mission examined comparative avenues of stimulating trade and other commercial activities in Nigeria so as to boost economic growth and employment opportunities.

The governor said 15 companies and organisations in Saudi Arabia had shown interest in doing business with Kano state in banking and development finance, seven in bicycle manufacturing and distribution, five in vegetable oil marketing, three in agricultural commodities, nine in ceramics and 23 in leather products.

Investors remain skittish

Post-crash rebound turns hesitant

LONDON, March 6, (Reuters): Stock markets around the globe have been making their best rally since the crash of "Black Monday" October 19 but investors remain skittish and apt to shy, sell and take their profits at any whiff of bad news.

As the rebound seemed to hesitate late last week, there were also signs that financial authorities, certainly in Japan, will be perfectly content to see a little caution keep markets from getting too volatile.

Comments by Bank of Japan sources that a 20 per cent rise on the Tokyo stock market, the world's highest, in the past two months may have been slightly overdone prompted what some brokers saw as a healthy bout of mid-week selling.

"The market has been going up in a straight line, more or less," said Peter Tasker, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson International Inc in Tokyo, where the Nikkei Market Index closed on Saturday at 25,627 points.

That is within a hairbreadth of its pre-crash peak of 26,646. Economists in the United States reckon that the Federal Reserve (Central Bank) is keeping American financial markets on an even keel with a steady and accommodating credit policy.

America can afford to put a brave face on the results of Mexican action

US strategy for tackling Third World debt still on course

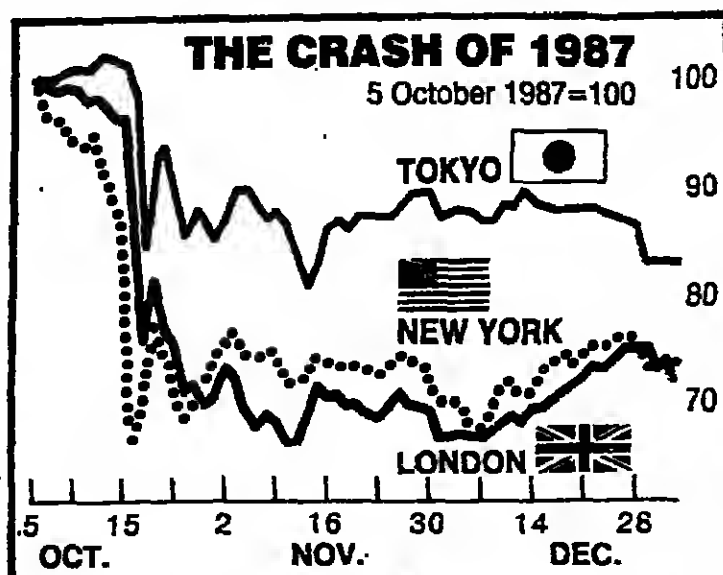
WASHINGTON, March 6, (Reuters): The Reagan administration, unshaken by the disappointing results of a Mexican debt-swap action, is confident its strategy for tackling the Third World's \$1.2-trillion debt is still on course.

Far more significant than a tepid response to Mexico's offer to exchange higher-quality bonds for old bank loans, US officials argue, was a sudden decision by Brazil last month to cooperate with its creditors instead of confront them.

By abandoning a year-old payments moratorium, Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor owing \$113 billion, has debt strategy outlined by US Treasury Secretary James Baker in Seoul in October 1985, the officials say.

"I think the principles that underlie that debt strategy are every bit as valid today as they were then," Baker told the Senate Budget Committee on Friday.

The main principle was that banks and multilateral institutions like the World Bank would



Wall Street meanwhile demonstrated last week that the rally in share prices there is likely to remain cautious.

Friday brought statistics showing that US unemployment was at its lowest in February in more than eight years — evidence of a strong economy that should dispel lingering fears that the crash of 87 heralded a recession.

"This report makes the thought of a recession a figment of the imagination at this point," said Allen Sinai, chief economist

at New York consultants Boston Company.

But the Dow Jones industrial average, Wall Street's most-watched blue chip barometer which had made a strong 48-point gain on Monday, slipped back five points.

The view on Wall Street was that a boom in economy meant no further easing of interest rates and might threaten inflation and higher imports.

Still, the Dow closed higher on the week — the fourth week run-

ning it has done so and its longest stretch since the October crash. It ended on Friday on 2,057.86. That is still down about 25 per cent from its pre-crash peak, but it is up 15 per cent on a low touched on "Black Monday" of 1,738.42.

The performance of London's Stock Market is closely tracking Wall Street. London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip British stocks also remains around 25 per cent below its pre-crash best, but last week saw it hold gains just above 1,800 points, regarded as an important psychological barrier.

Low It ended on Friday at 1,834.5, nearly 15 per cent above 9 of 1,565.2.

A London share trader said, however, "I don't trust this rally. A drop of Wall Street or the slightest bad news will prompt profit-taking."

Prospects of tax cuts in a March 15 British budget are among factors helping the rally in London stocks, meanwhile there have been signs of renewed interest by big investment institutions, whose absence from the market has helped keep the volume of business very thin lately.

"The institutions are not ex-

actly filling their boots with stock but it's encouraging that their interest is returning," said an economist at one London securities house.

Rallies on the main continental European bourses meanwhile were checked last week by profit-taking.

The volume of business was thin on the Paris bourse, which rose 18 per cent in February largely because of interest in takeover stocks.

Friday saw the Paris CAC General index at 298.0 after 306.5 on 306.5.

Thin trading also characterized the Frankfurt bourse, where the Faz index ended last week at 455.02 points, disappointing brokers who had hoped the recent rally would carry it above 460.

DG Bank said the German market had risen 16 per cent since the end of January and needed to pause for breath.

Commerzbank said in a report: "With the gradual brightening of the real economic environment, Commerzbank sees itself confirmed in its fundamentally positive assessment of the German bourse."

Profit-taking after gains earlier in the week also took share prices slightly lower on Friday in Switzerland and Spain.

World Business Summary

Japan seen biggest holder of currency reserves

WASHINGTON, March 6, (AP): Japan replaced West Germany in 1987 as the nation holding the most currency reserves, the International Monetary Fund reported today. Japan's reserves gained \$32 billion in value and reached \$81.1 billion, the IMF said, while West Germany held \$78.8 billion worth at the end of 1987. The United States lost \$8.7 billion for a total of \$34.8 billion, dropping from third to fifth place behind Taiwan with \$74.1 billion and Britain with \$41.7 billion.

France, New Zealand, Norway and Iceland also had reduced reserves. Reserves include a country's foreign currencies, its stock of the fund's own kind of money, the "Special Drawing Right" or SDR, and the level of its account with the fund itself. The fund lists gold separately. There, too, Japan took over as the biggest holder, with 61.5 billion ounces in January of this year, up from 35.4 billion at the end of 1986. West Germany's stock of gold rose to 59.2 billion ounces from 45.6 billion in the same period.

The United States held only 32.5 billion ounces in January, down from 39.8 billion.

Taiwan showed a sharp increase of \$20.3 billion in its holdings of currency. With a population of only 20 million people, it had more than 10 per cent of the world's reserves. Taiwan's total apparently came largely from its foreign trade, including its huge surplus of exports to the United States. The holdings also reflect purchases of dollars by other countries' central banks to keep the dollar from falling further. During 1987 many governments became worried that the drop in the price of the dollar would hurt their trade by making their exports more expensive in the United States, and US exports cheaper.

Intervention by governments buying dollars on world markets led to what the fund called a significant rise in the proportion of reserves held in dollars, above the 66 per cent level of 1986. The fund's monthly "IMF Memorandum" did not give the proportion for 1987.

China offers 'good quality' products at competitive prices

BELING, March 6, (Xinhua): Irving Cohen, a US businessman, said that China offers products of good quality at competitive prices and has been his company's major supplier for a long time. "My customers at home never complain about the quality of the products I import from China," said Cohen, chairman of Host Apparel, Inc. and Pajama Craft, Inc., the largest sellers of men's pajamas and bathrobes in the United States. "Their prices are five to 15 per cent lower than those quoted by my competitors," said the chairman, who also buys from Brazil, Malaysia, Turkey, Portugal and other countries. However, his major complaint is China's paucity of flights between major cities. "I had to spend six cold hours on a train from Shanghai to Nanjing because there is only one flight a week between the two cities," he said in an interview with Xinhua at the ongoing '88 Foreign Trade Fair. His company started business with China seven years ago and now has trade ties with a dozen Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing. That requires frequent travelling, he said. Another problem in his trade with China is wrong packaging because workers here do not know English and often put clothes in wrong bags, he complained.

Cohen, accompanied by his son, was negotiating with a garment company in Beijing on the last leg of his three-city trip to Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing. The 74-year-old chairman comes to China every March. "Now I'm placing orders for 1990 that will amount to \$12 million," he said.

"I could buy even more if we didn't have a quota limit. That's seriously affected my business last year," he said. The businessman has the confidence to buy two years in advance because, he said, men's fashions do not change as often as women's. However, his company will probably increase its imports by up to 15 per cent this year over last year. Imports from China form 75 per cent of his total overseas purchases. Irving Cohen is one of some 1,000 foreign businessmen who attended the annual trade fair that opened on March 3 and will last till March 11. More than 1,000 varieties of products are displayed and 447 projects are offered for foreign investment in the Chinese capital.

Urgent steps needed to stem drop in world oil prices

QUITO, March 6, (UPI): Ecuador's oil minister said yesterday his Opec member nation will ask the 13-nation organisation to reduce its production in order to stave off another oil price collapse. Fernando Santos said "urgent" steps were needed to stem the recent drop in world oil prices by more than \$4 a barrel below the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' \$18-a-barrel benchmark price. He suggested that Opec's price panel, which has the authority to recommend an emergency meeting of the full organisation if oil prices deviate "significantly" from the \$18-a-barrel target, convene soon. Ecuador will ask Opec to lower its oil production to 16 million barrels a day, Santos said.

New York-based Petroleum Intelligence Weekly reported on Monday that Opec appears to have reduced its output by about 500,000 barrels to between 17 million and 17.5 million barrels a day in the last week or so in a bid to halt the price slide. "We are deeply worried by the problem of falling prices, which is bringing chaos to the international oil market," Santos said.

When Opec's price panel visited Ecuador on Feb 22 and 23, Santos urged the organisation's production committee to hold a meeting on measures to stem the oil price decline. In December, 12 of Opec's 13 members agreed to limit their production to 15.06 million barrels a day for the first half of 1988 in order to maintain the \$18-a-barrel benchmark price. But Iraq, which had greatly exceeded its output quota, refused to join the accord and is believed to be producing about 2.3 million barrels a day. Under the pact, the Opec price panel and production committee are responsible for enforcing adherence to the organisation's pricing and output guidelines. But the December agreement failed to take any substantive action to end surplus production or illegal discounting by member nations.

In 1986, oil prices plummeted by about 50 per cent to the \$15-a-barrel range after Opec flooded the global market in an eight-month pricing war against outside producers.

Share prices rise steadily

HONG KONG, March 6, (Xinhua): Share prices rose steadily this week thanks to increased investment activities and improved overseas market performance, according to the Sun Hing Kai Research. The Hang Seng index, main gauge of blue chips, went up 88 points over the week to close at 2,472. Sentiment was buoyed on the one hand by the performance of Wall Street, Tokyo and London and on the other hand by the renewed participation by local buying. The 1988-89 budget of the Hong Kong government was favourably received, especially as it favoured the property sector. The new policy lifts the threshold at which the 2.75 per cent stamp duty begins to apply from the present property transactions of 500,000 Hong Kong dollars to 1.5 million Hong Kong dollars.

While most blue chips stood firm, secondaries were reactivated. As a result, the transaction volume increased to 929 million Hong Kong dollars daily average with properties faring best. On the market outlook, the Sun Hing Kai Research said in its weekly review that the market is still technically strong and stands a very good chance to move up higher in current reporting season as quite a few big companies will announce their full earnings this month.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Association of Banks has decided not to change the existing deposit interest rate structure for the present. Earlier this year, the association decided to impose negative interest rates on big Hong Kong dollar deposits by March 10, as a means to deter speculative pressure which has built up since November in anticipation of a revaluation of the Hong Kong dollar. Financial Secretary Piers Jacobs said in his 1988-89 budget speech that the government has no intention to alter the linked rate system which pegs the Hong Kong dollar with the US dollar at a rate of 7.80 to one.

Financial markets remain subdued

Expected UK tax cuts may give boost to equity markets

THERE were a number of data releases this week, the most important of which were the leading indicators and the unemployment and non-farm payroll figures.

Although the decline in the leading indicators appeared to confirm the expected slowdown in the US economy, the upward revision of the December figure caused the bond and equity markets to react calmly and by cancelling the three consecutive month decline, lessened fears of a recession this year.

Home sales, factory orders and construction spending all fell but the net effect on the dollar

was broadly neutral and no definite trend could be established particularly in view of the better than anticipated non-farm payroll figures, according to National Bank of Kuwait's weekly market report.

Construction spending fell 2.9 per cent in January. This figure represents an \$11.6 billion decline in construction spending to a seasonally adjusted rate of \$395.2 billion. This was the largest drop since March when it fell 3.3 per cent. This figure was worse than expected as the market anticipated a 0.2 per cent drop.

Leading indicators fell 0.6 per

cent in January after rising a revised 0.3 per cent in December and falling a revised 1.1 per cent in November.

Home sales fell 9 per cent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 535,000 units following a revised decrease in December of 6.8 per cent. This was the lowest rate since December 1982 and was a much greater fall than the 1 per cent market forecast.

Decline Factory orders fell 0.6 per cent in January to a seasonally adjusted \$212.57 billion. The market had anticipated a slightly higher fall of 1.3 per cent. Most of the

decline was due to lower orders for transportation equipment and primary metals.

Unemployment dropped to 5.7 per cent in February from 5.8 per cent in January. This was lower than the market expectation of 5.9 per cent.

Non-farm payrolls increased by 531,000 in February after rising a revised 174,000 in January. This was a far higher figure than the 160,000 increase forecast.

The forthcoming week is likely to be characterised by another period of stability. Greenspan's recent testimonial suggests that the Federal Reserve is happy about the present policy and

therefore little immediate change is expected.

On balance, indicators continue to give a mixed outlook with the better than expected employment numbers countered by declines elsewhere.

However, until trade numbers come out on March 17 most financial markets will remain quiet.

Support The mixed indicators and optimism with respect to the trade numbers continues to support the dollar and with no numbers of any consequence being released next week, we would expect this to be maintained with trading ranges set at DM1.685-

1.705 and Y128-130.

The major surprise of the week was the much sharper than expected record deterioration in the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments which widened in January.

The trade deficit of \$1.51 billion was felt to be somewhat distorted due to the introduction of new customs procedures at the beginning of the year and the seaman's ferry strike.

Despite the adverse data releases, the sterling showed continued strength against other major currencies during the week

(Continued on Page 11)

Shipping firms reluctant to send vessels to Gulf

Future prospects could be promising: experts

By Jadranka Porter

HOPEFUL trends in the international commercial shipping and high risks, and insurance rates, merchant shipping has been subjected to in the war-torn Gulf have left shipping agents in Kuwait with a modest measure of optimism.

They expect another year of reduced business activity but the belief that once the war ends the business will flourish keeps some companies alive.

Bjorn Tonsberg, the departing general manager of Al Ghanim Barber Shipping Company, predicted that 1988 would be no different than 1987. The general picture of Kuwait-bound shipping has been one of steady decline since 1984 with the number of vessels and volume of cargo falling.

Dropped
The number of containers reaching Kuwait in 1986 and 1987 was the same but the general cargo volume dropped by 15 per cent last year, said Tonsberg.

Kuwait is no more handling the transit cargo bound for Iraq. The local market has shrunk and many shipping companies were reluctant to send vessels to the Gulf where they may be subject to Iranian interception or attacks.

Freight and premium rates were on the increase and the ship-

ping business in the Gulf has been in a state of depression.

This has prompted shipping agents to demand protection for their vessels in the Gulf which according to Tonsberg will not materialise.

However he is at pains to point out that all cargo sent to Kuwait did arrive in the country.

Conditions

Peter Wakely, who takes over from Tonsberg, said the Gulf commercial shipping has adapted reasonably well to the adverse conditions. Wakely said Saudi Arabia, where he served for nine years, diverted a lot of its maritime traffic to Jeddah on the Red Sea which caused a severe drop in trade in Dammam.

Both experts noted that future prospects could be promising. Nothing will help the shipping business more than an end to the Iraq-Iran war, they say.

It is widely believed that Iraqi ports will be out of function for at least two years after the war and Kuwait can handle the Iraq and possibly even some of Iran bound trade during that and subsequent periods.

But Tonsberg and Wakely note some other positive prospects. Among those is a general increase in the commercial shipping activity worldwide.

"There is generally more cargo movement, the world trade is picking up and so are the freight rates," said Tonsberg.



Al Ghanim Barber Shipping Company hosted a party on Saturday to say good-bye to its departing general manager Bjorn Tonsberg and introduce his successor Peter Wakely. Pictured above is Wakely (right) speaking to the Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha and Tonsberg (second left) in conversation with Ash Sinha, the Indian Embassy Counsellor.

However, the growth in the international shipping business will have no visible effect in the Gulf before the war ends, he added.

Another welcome development is a greater feeling of confidence among the expatriates in Kuwait.

"The government has succeeded in instilling a feeling of stability among the expatriates,"

said Wakely. The shipping agents believe that this would lead to expatriates spending more freely which would boost the market situation and consequently the shipping business.

KPC boosts profits despite Gulf war

KUWAIT Petroleum Corp yesterday reported an almost 30 per cent increase in net profits in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1987, despite the hazards of the war between Iraq and Iran.

The corporation's annual report said that the KPC netted profits of KD70 million in 1986-87, against KD54 million for the year ending June 1986.

The report put the KPC's revenues for the same year at KD2.96 billion.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa, who chairs the KPC's board of directors, wrote in a preface that the company managed to realise such good results despite the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, now in its eighth year, and the hazards to shipping in the Gulf.

Performance
Sheikh Ali also attributed the KPC's good performance in the fiscal year under review to the return of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to a benchmark price system in



Sheikh Ali

January 1987 and the efforts to stabilise a flagging world oil market around a price of \$18 a barrel.

He said the Opec move followed the pattern of the oil market as a result of fierce competition among producers and their adoption of the netback system that led to a price war and a drastic decline in oil prices.

"International oil companies, including the KPC, incurred additional burdens as a result of

the spillovers of the Iraq-Iran war, foremost being the escalating dangers to shipping," Sheikh Ali said.

"To confront such harsh circumstances, the KPC adopted a number of flexible and effective policies... which enabled it to limit to a certain extent the adverse effects of those events, absorb additional costs and achieve better results than the previous year," Sheikh Ali said.

Kuwait is not only one of the prominent Opec members but is the first of the organisation member states to embark on internationalisation of its refining and marketing operations.

Successes
The minister reported fresh marketing successes as a result of a network of downstream operations in Europe including two refineries in Holland and Denmark with a total capacity of 125,000 barrels a day and about 3,000 automobile filling stations in Benelux, Scandinavian countries and Britain.

"The international marketing operations realised their purported objectives by tapping new markets and concluding a number of long-term contracts with the distribution network in Europe playing a key role in this regard," Sheikh Ali said.

Distribution
"The corporation enhanced its presence in Europe by taking over three companies in the United Kingdom, one of the largest European markets, increasing by 150 per cent the distribution network in Denmark, and entering new key international airports to supply airlines with fuel," he added.

In the field of oil exploration, the report said that the KPC was concentrating on operations in the United States and the North Sea.

It said this was decided upon after KPC revised its worldwide exploration activity and decided to relinquish oil prospecting concessions in certain areas in favour of rights in more promising localities.

Bahrain may take steps to clamp down on visiting financial advisers

BAHRAIN, March 6, (Reuters): Bahrain's monetary authorities may take steps to clamp down on visiting financial advisers operating illegally on the island, banking sources said yesterday.

They said the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) is considering moves to stop advisers from operating here without licences, both to safeguard the public and to protect local financial institutions from unfair competition.

Operation
By law, the financial institutions operating in Bahrain must have an investment banking licence but there are no provisions for institutions which are not registered as banks.

There are two paths the BMA could take, "one source said. "It could enforce the legislation which makes this type of operation a criminal offence, or it could introduce a licensing system for investment institutions which are not banks."

US merger move will shatter records if it keeps up

NEW YORK, March 6, (Reuters): A rush of merger activity in the United States in the first months of 1988 will shatter records if it keeps up.

So far in 1988 more than \$32 billion worth of mergers has been completed, according to researchers at I.D.D. Information Services Inc. Millions more have been proposed.

For the record year of 1986, there were \$220 billion worth of US mergers completed. Experts say that if deals keep entering the pipeline as fast as they have been, the record will easily be passed.

Capital
"My guess is that it will continue," said John Perkowski, head of investment banking at finance house PaineWebber Group Inc. "There's an awful lot of capital out there."

Analysts say that US corporations are flush with cash and in a position to borrow to make strategic acquisitions. One merger chief also says that many corporate raiders and takeover speculators have been staying on the sidelines since the October 19 stock market crash.

The mere presence of those

raiders, by artificially driving up the price of stock, had tended to keep companies that simply wanted to buy another firm or merge in order to develop their business from embarking on deals, he said.

Raiders
"It's a little more level playing field for corporate buyers," says a senior merger chief, who requested anonymity. "They no longer have to compete with professional raiders and buy-out acquirers."

A more important factor is a favourable economic outlook. Many US corporations, having accumulated cash in a long period of slow but steady economic growth, see the current climate favouring acquisitions, especially to build up businesses in which they already operate.

Value
Robert Willard, head of mergers and acquisitions at brokerage Prudential-Bache Securities, says that immediately after the October crash there was a new risk of a recession. But now, he says, economic worries have receded while stock prices

have recovered only partially.

Robert Willard, an accounting specialist at Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc, says that many stocks are trading at 50 to 60 per cent of a company's private market value. "You're buying one dollar's worth of assets for 50 cents or 60 cents," he said.

Another impetus, Willard says, is the perception that "antitrust policies of this administration have been rather lenient" and a new administration in 1989, whether Democrat or Republican, may not be as flexible.

"The enforcement of antitrust laws has been extremely lax, to say the least, under this administration," said Michael Metz, analyst at Oppenheimer and Co. The possibility that a new, tougher administration will replace the Reagan crew encourages companies to complete deals this year.

Buyers
At the beginning of this year, several analysts predicted a rash of foreign buyers as European and Japanese firms took advantage not only of lower stock prices but also the lower dollar in

relation to their own currencies.

F Hoffmann-La Roche and Co AG of Switzerland got the ball rolling in the first week of 1988 with a hostile bid for Sterling Drug Inc. But Sterling fought a friendly "white knight" Eastman Kodak Co., which paid \$5.1 billion for it.

Selective
According to Willard of Prudential-Bache, foreign buyers are more selective because they focus more on energy — buying firms that fit strategically with their own, than US counterparts.

"They tend to buy those businesses they feel comfortable managing from a distance," he said. Another possible explanation for the relatively slow pace of foreign takeovers is that the rebuff of Roche by Sterling may have caused some other buyers to hesitate.

The following is a list of the biggest US corporate merger deals this year:

1. Federated Dept Stores Inc, \$6.2 billion, bought by competing bidders R H Macy and Co. and Campeau Corp.
2. Sterling Drug Inc, acquired

by Eastman Kodak Co, \$5.1 billion completed.

3. Farmers Group Inc, bought by BAT Industries Plc, \$4.4 billion.

4. American Standard Inc, bought by Black & Decker Corp. and Competing Management Group, \$2.3 billion.

5. USG Corp., bought by Wagner and Brown Partnership, \$2.2 billion.

6. Homestake Mining Co., bought by Mesa Limited Partnership, \$1.9 billion.

7. JMS International Inc, agreement to be acquired by Dun and Bradstreet Corp., \$1.8 billion.

8. Media General Inc, bought by Barris Industries Inc and Giant Group Ltd, \$1.75 billion.

9. Gaf Corp., bought by management group, \$1.4 billion.

10. Koppers Co Inc, jointly

sought by Beazer Plc and Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc, \$1.3 billion.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	0.890	0.890	0.890	0.890	40000	1
GULF BANK	0.375	0.375	0.375	0.370	420000	11
COMMERCIAL BK	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	70000	4
ANLI BANK	0.315	---	---	---	---	---
B.K.M.E.	0.315	0.320	0.320	0.305	300000	4
K.R.E.B.	0.400	---	---	---	---	---
BURGAM BANK	0.260	0.255	0.255	0.255	50000	2
K.F.HOUSE	0.485	0.485	0.485	0.485	10000	1
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KUT INV. CO.	0.204	---	---	---	---	---
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	---	---	---	---	---
K.I.T.C.	0.164	0.168	0.168	0.168	20000	1
CON. FACILITIES	0.425	---	---	---	---	---
ANLIH INV.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
I.F.A.	0.108	---	---	---	---	---
INV. PEARL KWT	0.108	0.106	0.106	0.106	220000	4
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.710	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INSURANCE	0.370	---	---	---	---	---
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.610	0.610	0.610	0.610	3160000	16
WARBA INS. CO.	0.490	---	---	---	---	---
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
KUT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.248	---	---	---	---	---
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.122	---	---	---	---	---
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.228	---	---	---	---	---
SALMAN R.E.	0.075	---	---	---	---	---
KUT PROJECTS	0.094	---	---	---	---	---
KUT R.E.I. CON	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.510	---	---	---	---	---
KUT M.P. IND.	0.320	---	---	---	---	---
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
REF. IND. CO.	0.385	---	---	---	---	---
H.A.M.T. CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
GULF CABLE	0.960	---	---	---	---	---
K.P.W. IND. CO.	0.130	---	---	---	---	---
CON. MARINE	0.350	---	---	---	---	---
K.S.W. REP. CO.	0.046	---	---	---	---	---
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.080	---	---	---	---	---
K.N.C. CO.	0.218	---	---	---	---	---
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.174	---	---	---	---	---
P. WAREHOUSING	0.150	---	---	---	---	---
CON. MCT. CHMP.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	240000	2
MOBILE TELE.	0.380	---	---	---	---	---
KUT COMPUTER	0.206	---	---	---	---	---
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.244	---	---	---	---	---
UNITO FISHERIES	0.140	---	---	---	---	---
UNITO POULTRY	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
KUT FOODS	0.320	---	---	---	---	---
AGRI. FOOD PRD.	0.150	---	---	---	---	---
NON-KUT SECTOR						
BHN. INTER. BK	0.069	0.068	0.068	0.068	280000	4
BHN. M. EAST. BK	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.047	80000	1
UNITO. GULF BK	0.050	---	---	---	---	---
COAST INVEST.	0.093	---	---	---	---	---
A. G. INV. CORP.	0.039	---	---	---	---	---
FIRST. GULF BK	0.870	---	---	---	---	---
B.K.I.G.	0.092	---	---	---	---	---

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
FINANCIAL SECTOR	0.098	---	---	---	---	---
PEARL INV. CO.	0.098	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INV. CO.	0.042	---	---	---	---	---
GULF INTL INS	0.009	---	---	---	---	---
ARAB INT. CO.	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
SHARJAH INS	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
GULF UNION INS	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.016	---	---	---	---	---
C-R.K. WHITE CMNT	0.019	---	---	---	---	---
D-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	---	---	---	---	---
E-FUJAIH CENT	0.009	---	---	---	---	---
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.011	---	---	---	---	---
G-GULF CEMENT	0.015	---	---	---	---	---
H-UW. QATNAH	0.019	---	---	---	---	---

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SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIKH PORT AS ON 6.3.88	B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
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8	Sham	ISA	2441860	
9	UCO 17	Sagersip	2432692	
11	Kalish	Alqutub	4747815	
12	Anemos	YAAS	4745533	
14	Fathulhair	KSA	4843150	
17	Puma	Al Bader	2433537	

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIKH PORT	ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
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6/3	Tug Salvania	Gulf Star	4845501	
6/3	Wu Jiang	Mohd Bahar	2433881	
7/3	Zarka	Alqutub	4747815	
7/3	Nikolay Chukin	Alrasheed	2422026	

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT	B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Caly	Mohd Bahar	2433881	

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT	ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
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7/3	Sunset	Roger	2423642	
11/3	Willine Orient	Algh Barber	4842988	
11/3	Materlineck	Al Rasheed	2422026	
12/3	Barzan	UASC	4843150	
18/3	Qatari Ibn Alfuja	UASC	4843150	

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ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.35	4.60
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	1.00	1.00
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	---	---
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.95	0.96
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53	0.58
ARAB JOR/INVT/BD	2.10	2.12
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD	0.35	0.36
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.31	2.10
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.76	0.75
ARABIAN SEAS IRS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.3616.31	
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CATRO AMMAN BANK	30.00	30.00
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DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.	1.52	1.51
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.44	0.44
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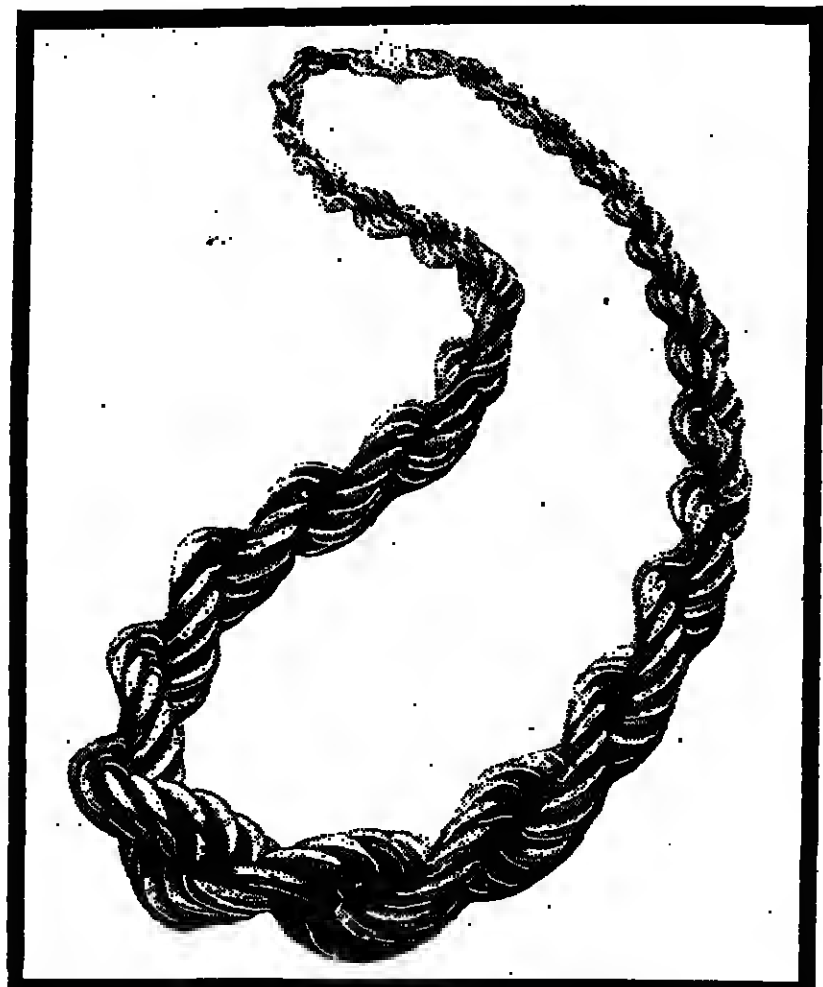
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Hanika fights back to beat Witvoet

WICHITA, Kan., March 6. (Reuters) Third seed Sylvia Hanika of West Germany dug herself out of a hole for the third straight match and beat little-known Hester Witvoet of the Netherlands 4-6-3-6-3 to reach the final of the \$100,000 Kansas tennis tournament yesterday.

Hanika will face top seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria, who recovered from her marathon quarterfinal victory to dispose of Soviet Svetlana Parkomenko 6-2-6-1 in one hour.

Hanika, ranked 19 in the world, has not beaten the eight-ranked Maleeva in three tries.

Maleeva said she had little sleep after Friday night's nearly three-hour struggle over Czechoslovak Jana Novotna.

"It (the semifinal) was hard because I was still tired from last night," said Maleeva. "I didn't have the perfect sleep. Things were going through my mind about the match."

Quickly

Hanika, who had to rally to win her last two matches, ran into a red-hot Witvoet and quickly fell behind again.

"There was no much I could do," said Hanika. "She was just hitting winners all over the place. She was making shots out of the most unbelievable situations."

In the second set, Hanika began serving with authority and took control of the match.

"I had troubles with her serve," Witvoet admitted. "It's hard to see whether she's going to play a hard serve or a serve with sidespin. It would have been a dream to play the finals," she said.

Hanika said the aggressive 20-year-old forced her to gamble.

"I had to take all my chances to win the match," Hanika said.

Graf thrashes Maleeva for crown

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 6. (Reuters) Top seed Steffi Graf served badly but easily won her second tournament of the year when she beat Bulgaria's Katerina Maleeva 6-4 6-1 in the final of the \$200,000 US Women's Hardcourt Championships yesterday.

Graf, the world number one from West Germany, combined power and finesse to overcome her serving difficulty. The fourth-seeded Maleeva, ranked 13th in the world, lasted just over an hour, which is almost respectable against Graf.

"Today I was trying to put more pace on the shots," said Graf, after winning her first tournament since victory at the Australian Open in January.

"I think she (Maleeva) was playing all right but she could have done more with her shots. My serve was horrible and I will have to work on it," added Graf, who did not play a tournament in the five weeks between titles.

Serve

Maleeva appeared to be giving Graf a workout after two opening set breaks against the top seed's serve.

Maleeva came up with her second break to lead 4-3, but Graf broke right back and won the last three straight games.

With the second set level at 1-1 and the third game at deuce, Graf hammered two forehand winners from the baseline to take the lead and never looked back.

The West German teenager broke Maleeva at love, held her serve at 15 and broke the Bulgarian again to take a commanding 5-1 lead, before serving out the match.

"I wasn't playing too well in the first set," said Graf, who collected \$40,000 for her efforts.

CASH AND AGASSI ELIMINATED

Becker and Sanchez reach Cup final

INDIAN WELLS, California, March 6. (UPI) Emilio Sanchez of Spain upset No. 4 Pat Cash, 6-4, 6-4, yesterday to advance to final match against defending champion Boris Becker at the \$702,500 Newsweek Champions Cup.

Becker, the No. 3 seed playing only his second tournament of the year, used a strong serve to outlast No. 7 Andre Agassi, US 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in 2 hours and 9 minutes.

Sanchez, the No. 8 seed, usually plays a baseline game but Saturday attacked the net behind a strong serve. Cash, the reigning Wimbledon champion from Australia, committed 26 unforced errors to only 6 for Sanchez.

Confident

Sanchez, who had nine aces, recorded the only two service breaks of the match — in the opening game of the first set and the fifth game of the second set — to win in 93 minutes.

"I was quite confident," said Sanchez, who upset No. 2 seed Miloslav Mecir in the quarterfinals. Said Cash. "I'm just exhausted."

Sanchez, who groaned when informed that today's final is a best-of-five sets, has lost four of five career meetings with Becker. He was eliminated by the West German in the quarterfinals here last year.

Becker, who had 10 aces to go with nine double-faults, yielded only seven points in six service



Sanchez: upset Cash

games in the final set to withstand the strong challenge from the 17-year-old Agassi.

Hardly tested in his first three matches, Becker jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first set. However, Agassi won the next five games, then closed out the set with an ace

after Becker got to within 5-4. Becker then evened the match, getting the only break of the second set in the sixth game.

Agassi, who two weeks ago captured the US Indoors in Memphis, Tennessee, for his first Grand Prix title, went ahead 5-4



Becker: made to struggle

in the third set. But Becker held serve, got the crucial break in the 11th game, and completed the victory with a service winner.

Agassi, the youngest opponent Becker ever has faced, was distraught about hitting what appeared to be an easy shot wide

in the critical 11th game of the final set.

The tournament, played before a crowd of 10,500 at the Grand Champions resort located about 20 miles east of Palm Springs, offers \$136,700 to the winner.

Kalambay beats McCallum to retain title

PESARO, Italy, March 6. (Reuters) Zaire-born Italian Sumbu Kalambay retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) middleweight crown yesterday in the face of a tough challenge from Jamaican Mike McCallum.

The three Latin-American judges unanimously awarded Kalambay, 31, the fight on points after the scheduled 12 rounds.

McCallum, who resigned his junior-middleweight title after three years on top in order to fight riddleweight, had never before lost a professional fight.

Kalambay started the bout uncertainly and McCallum, also 31, was able to take the initiative with accurate jabs in the first few rounds. His greater aggression kept Kalambay on the defensive, making the Italian use all his technical footwork to dodge the attack.

Began

But Kalambay found his rhythm halfway through the bout and made speed count as he began to take the challenger by surprise with some hard right-hand punches.

By the 10th round American-based McCallum was visibly tiring and Kalambay took advantage with two rights which shook and confused his opponent.

After that the fight belonged to the Kalambay and the strongly partisan crowd set up a deafening chant of "Patrizio" the name he has often used since taking Italian citizenship in 1985.

It was Kalambay's first defence since winning the crown last October with an easy victory over America's Iran Barkley. He now has 44 wins and a draw out of 48 professional fights.

"The predictions were against me, but I knew I was well prepared and I've shown I'm a great champion," he said afterwards as he embraced his Italian wife Rosa and four-year-old son Patrick, who watched the fight.

Nets edge Knicks for 3rd straight win

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J., March 6. (AP) Roy Hinson and Tim McCormick scored 20 points apiece and the New Jersey Nets won their third straight game under new coach Willis Reed with a 94-85 victory over the New York Knicks last night.

The Nets, who hadn't won more than two straight all season, broke open a close game by outscoring the Knicks 26-15 in the third period. New Jersey then held off a late New York rally.

The Nets won without their leading scorer and rebounder, Buck Williams, who was out with a strained right hamstring.

With the game tied at 48-48 early in the third quarter, the Nets took the lead for good with eight straight points, six by McCormick and two by Hinson, who had 12 rebounds.

Patrick Ewing led New York with 22 points, but no other Knick had more than 11.

Bullets 101, Pistons 97

Moses Malone scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as the Washington Bullets won their sixth straight, holding off Detroit 101-97.

Malone added 13 rebounds as the Bullets broke the Pistons' six-game winning streak.

For Washington, the winning streak is the longest of the year and gave it a one-game lead over New York in the race for the Eastern Conference's eighth and final playoff spot.

Detroit trailed by as many as 16 in the first half, but got within four several times in the second half.

Jeff Malone added 21 points for Washington, while Detroit was led by Isiah Thomas and

Vinnie Johnson with 17 each.

Bucks 104, Hawks 101

Sidney Moncrief scored 29 points, including a pair of free throws with three seconds remaining, leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a 104-101 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

It was the eighth victory in the last 10 games for the Bucks and the third consecutive homecourt loss for Atlanta, now 21-7 on its floor this season.

The Bucks never trailed and led by as many as 19 points, but the Hawks rallied and had a late opportunity to take the lead after Glenn Rivers made it 102-101 with a jumper with 38 seconds remaining. But Dominique Wilkins missed an outside shot and Moncrief rebounded and was fouled.

Wilkins held to only five points on 1-for-13 shooting in the first half, led Atlanta with 24 points, including 11 in the last 6:30 of the game.

Bulls 100, Clippers 76

Michael Jordan scored 21 points in 27 minutes and the Chicago Bulls held Los Angeles to 55 points in the first three quarters en route to a 100-76 victory over the Clippers, who lost their 22nd consecutive road game.

Brad Sellers added 16 points and Sam Vincent 15 for the Bulls, while Mike Woodson had 21 for the Clippers, who lost their fourth straight and 28th in their last 32 games.

Results	
Milwaukee	104
New Jersey	97
Washington	101
Chicago	100
Houston	105
Utah	135
Portland	123
Denver	115
Atlanta	101
New York	85
Detroit	97
L.A. Clippers	76
Sacramento	94
San Antonio	106
Golden State	117
Seattle	102

Wadkins retains lead

MIAMI, March 6. (Reuters) Bobby Wadkins, in his 14th year on the PGA Tour, will be going for his first title when he takes a two-stroke lead into the final round of the \$1 million Doral Open golf tournament today.

Yesterday, Wadkins maintained his slim lead with a two-under-par 70 for a total of 12-under-par 204.

Hot

Chip Beck, who scored his first PGA victory in his 10th year on the tour just last week, is hot on Wadkins's tail after also recording a two-under-par third round for a 10-under-par 206 total.

Mark McCumber, a two-time

winner here, shot a four-under-par 68 and slipped into third place at 207. Sandy Lyle of Britain shot a five-under-par 67 to move into a tie for fourth place with Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, Raymond Floyd and Bruce Lietzke at eight-under-par 208.

"Tonight, I will try to remember all the good last rounds I've had in my career and there have been a lot of them. I'll try to keep a positive outlook," said Wadkins, trying not to appear nervous.

Wadkins birdied three of the first five holes, bogeyed the eighth and then parred all the rest.

Norman sails to 8-stroke victory

SYDNEY, March 6. (Reuters) World number one Greg Norman shot a final round of four-under-par 68 to win the inaugural Tournament Players' Championship by eight strokes today.

Norman, who had a hole-in-one in the third round yesterday, won with an 18-under 270 total to beat fellow Australians David Graham and Peter Senior.

Signals

The win caps a phenomenal run of success for Norman who has won three of his last four Australian tournaments and signals a timely return to form with the US Masters next month.

Norman was in little trouble today, finishing in his fourth successive sub-par round. He had earlier rounds of 67, 67 and 68.

Graham and Senior shared second spot at 278 while Roger Mackay of Australia and young



Norman: easy win

American Kirk Triplett were equal fourth at 279.

Veteran Western Australian Graham Marsh, in third spot overnight, lost ground with a double bogey at the 16th hole to finish in fourth place at 280 with compatriot Roger Davis.

Daniel stays ahead after three rounds

KAUAI, Hawaii, March 6. (Reuters) Beth Daniel eagled the final hole to secure a three-stroke lead over four players after the third round of the \$300,000 Women's Golf Tournament here yesterday.

"That was definitely the best shot I hit all day and it certainly made a difference in my score," said Daniel after her two-under-par 70 round for an eight-under-par 208 total.

Daniel hit a 172-yard nine-iron onto the par-five 18th and sank a nine-foot putt to increase her lead.

Found

Marci Bozarth, who was alone in second place after two rounds, found herself in a four-way tie for second at five-under-par 211 after an even-par 72 yesterday.

Tied with Bozarth are Japan's Ayako Okamoto, Amy Alcott and Betsy King, who shot a sparkling round of six-under-par 66 for her share of second place.

"This week I have putted better and I have worked on my short game," said King, who had six birdies and no bogeys for the best round of the day.

Kim Bauer, Elaine Crosby, Rosie Jones, Colleen Walker and South Korea's Ok-Hee Ku were tied for third at 213.

Navratilova to play benefit match

NEW YORK, March 6. (AP) Flushed with the success of Bonny Warner's sixth-place luge finish at the Calgary Olympics, Martina Navratilova was to take to the tennis court today in hopes of helping to develop other champions.

The reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion will team up with Billie Jean King in a challenge of the champions tennis match against Chris Evert and Pam Shriver for the second straight year to raise money for the women's sports foundation's "Aspire Higher" campaign.

"Last year, Billie Jean and I won two of three sets, but they won the money. They broke us at the right time," Navratilova said of her opponents in today's match, which was to be played in Boca Raton, Florida, and televised nationally April 3 on ABC.

Navratilova and Shriver have teamed up for 18 Grand Slam doubles titles. From 1978-80, Navratilova and King were a

doubles team, winning three Grand Slam titles, including King's 20th and final Wimbledon championship in 1979.

Lloyd and Shriver have teamed up only occasionally.

"We play three sets," Navratilova said of the three-set, no-ad special format. "The money escalates every set; every game counts for more."

When a team breaks serve, money is earned. If service is held, the sum carries over to the next game, supplementing the minimum already at stake in that game.

Money not won at the conclusion of the set will carry over to the following set.

Among the recipients of money raised by the "Aspire Higher" programme to increase participation by women in sports was Warner.

"She saw her first luge competition in 1980 at Lake Placid," Deborah Anderson, executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation, said of Warner.

"After the Games ended, she attended a luge clinic and got hooked."

"Bonny applied for a travel and training grant, and with the money bought her first luge. She also was a travel and training recipient last year and used the money to rent an apartment in Lake Placid so she could get in more practice time."

The four tennis stars donate the money they win to the "Aspire Higher" programme.

In 1986, Navratilova donated \$150,000 to the campaign and issued a challenge to other athletes to do the same. "Last year they (the WSF) raised \$400,000," Navratilova said.

Among other US Olympians performing at Calgary who were assisted by the "Aspire Higher" programme were pairs skater Gillian Wachman, ice dancer Suzanne Semanick, luger Cammy Myler, Alpine skier Hilary Lindh and figure skater Jill Trenary.

Weller tames Maillot to become champion

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, March 6. (Reuters) Rene Weller of West Germany won the European lightweight boxing title before an adoring crowd yesterday, defeating French champion Jose Maillot on points.

But Weller, 34, who earlier declared that this was to be his last international fight, disappointed fans who had hoped for a memorable final performance.

Former European titleholder Gerd Jacobsen of Denmark — Weller's original opponent for the match — withdrew with a back injury last month and was stripped of his title for failing to meet an official challenger within the specified six-month period.

Maillot, making his first challenge for the European title, proved a much tougher opponent than Weller appeared to have reckoned with.

The 31-year-old Frenchman gave Weller plenty of trouble with a seemingly infinite capacity

for absorbing blows, and fast, low attacks that made the most of his smaller, more compact frame.

Maillot overcame an initial nervousness and a first-round knockdown to inflict plenty of damage on Weller.

In the eighth, ninth, and tenth rounds, he succeeded in forcing the West German onto the ropes with a powerful volley of blows.

With Weller looking increasingly tired, Maillot suddenly seemed to be in with a chance.

But in the end, Weller's sheer weight of experience — he has fought 45 professional bouts and lost only one — proved decisive.

After some lackluster initial rounds, he set the 3,000 crowd afire in round seven, with a series of strong double jabs to Maillot's head.

Although the Frenchman fought back bravely, he never succeeded in penetrating Weller's defences well enough for a really telling blow.



Hateley

scores two for Monaco

PARIS, March 6. (Reuters) Monaco found its form in the second half of the French football season, consolidating its position at the head of the First Division thanks to two goals by English international Mark Hateley last night.

The League leaders had made a shaky start after the winter break, failing to score a single goal against Laval last Friday or Niort the week before.

But Hateley worked wonder on Monaco's confidence, giving the team its first goal against seventh-placed Cannes with an aggressive penalty kick in the fifth minute of play.

The British striker scored again in the 85th minute and French team mates Patrice Mege and Jean-Philippe Rohr added their goals in the 45th and 76th minute, making the 4-1 victory against Cannes complete.

Matra Racing of Paris, who nudged up to second place in the League last week, had a disappointing night, only managing to draw 1-1 to bottom-placed Le Havre.

Bordeaux, recovering after being held to a 1-1 draw by Dutch League leaders PSV Eindhoven in Wednesday's Champions' Cup quarterfinal, retained their third place position after a goalless draw with Niort.

Results	
Le Havre	1
Marseille	3
Auxerre	2
Monaco	4
Niort	0
PSG	1
Toulouse	1
Metz	1
Montpellier	2
Lens	1
M Racing	1
Nantes	0
Nice	0
Cannes	1
Bordeaux	0
Lille	0
Angers	1
Amiens	1
Strasbourg	1
S. Etienne	0

Italian clubs could rip Forest apart

LONDON, March 6. (Reuters) Brian Clough is prepared for the worst.

The Nottingham Forest manager fears his season could end in traumatic circumstances with his exciting young side ripped apart by plundering Italian clubs.

"Forest have reached the quarterfinals of the FA Cup and will probably finish second behind Liverpool in the championship — or winners of Division 1A, considering the one-horse race nature of the League title."

Allowed

But Clough would happily end the season without a trophy in return for being allowed to start the 1988-89 campaign with the same team which beat Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 away yesterday.

The result took Forest to within three points of second-placed Manchester United with three games in hand, though Liverpool remained a distant speck on the horizon 20 points in front.

Having fought off Glasgow Rangers, Arsenal, Tottenham and Manchester United to retain the services of England international Stuart Pearce and Neil



Webb: may be lured by the lira

Webb, Clough was hit a body blow last week with the news that Italian clubs will be allowed to sign a third foreign player.

Roma are reportedly considering a £1.5 million (\$2.67 million) bid for Webb as a possible replacement for Polish international Zbigniew Boniek, while Clough's son Nigel has been linked with Pisa.

"We want to keep everyone at Forest," said Clough, adding

sadly: "But if there's enough money about anyone can be bought."

Webb is young, he's fresh and he's talented, so he's an ideal target for the Italians."

Webb, who is currently keeping Monaco-based Glenn Hoddle out of the England midfield, showed his worth against Sheffield Wednesday with a crisply struck rising shot from 12 metres which left goalkeeper Martin Hodge helpless.

"Everyone has his price," added Clough. "If you had enough money you could buy the whole of Nottingham ... there's not a lot I could do about it if a wealthy Italian club took an interest in one of the Forest players."

Nigel Clough, like his father, has proved himself to be a prolific goalscorer and even filial affection is no guarantee the youngster will remain at the city ground.

"Like I said, everyone is available at the right price. As for Nigel, it's only 18 months since the fans here thought he couldn't play. I think he's won them over now. In fact, I reckon he's convinced the whole country."

"He isn't all that quick, he isn't all that tall, but he's got something to offer."

With Manchester United going down at Norwich, Liverpool moved 17 points clear at the top with a 1-0 win at Queen's Park Rangers and are now one game short of equalling Leeds United's 29-match unbeaten start to the League set in 1973-74.

QPR manager Jim Smith said he believed the strain was beginning to tell on Liverpool and added: "I was disappointed we didn't win ... Liverpool are having a bit of luck at the right time and I thought they played with the record on their minds."

Rivals

The crunch will come on March 18 when Liverpool meet city neighbours Everton. There is nothing their greatest rivals would like better than snuffing Liverpool's hopes of a place in the record books and the encounter could produce the match of the season.

Next Saturday Liverpool continue their quest for a second successive League and FA Cup double when they visit Second Division Manchester City on Cup quarterfinal duty.

SPORTS

SJOEBERG RETAINS HIGH JUMP CROWN

Losch takes European shot put title

BUDAPEST, March 6. (Reuters) Claudia Losch, Olympic women's shot put champion, showed the East Europeans she will again be a force in Seoul this year when she won the European indoor title today.

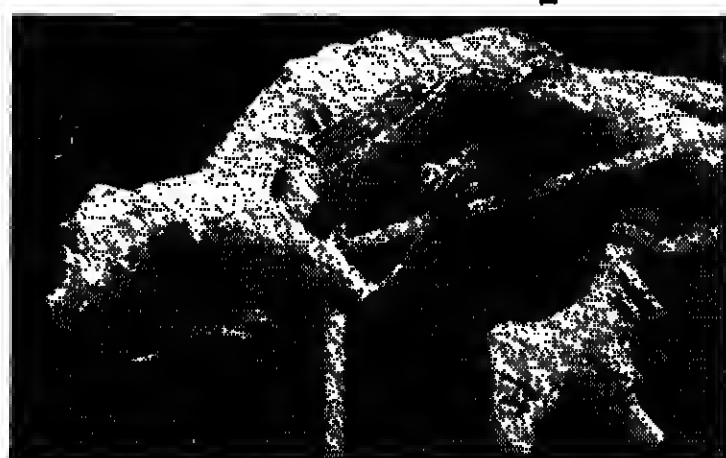
The 28-year-old West German won the Olympic gold in the absence of the formidable East Europeans, who were absent because of the Soviet-led boycott.

Absence

Losch, fourth in last year's World Championship, took the European title today in the absence of world gold medalist Natalya Lisovskaya of the Soviet Union.

However, today she relegated East Germany's world bronze medalist Katrin Neimke to third place behind Russian Larissa Peleshenko with a best put of 20.39 metres. Peleshenko finished with 20.23 and Neimke recorded 20.20.

While Losch won gold, her team-mate Carlo Thraenhardt woke up to find he had been stripped of the bronze medal he



Sjoeborg clears the bar at 2.39 metres. (Reuters wirephoto)

won yesterday's men's high jump.

Thraenhardt stalked out of the arena during the competition because he thought he had been unfairly treated by an official who said he had exceeded the time allowed to prepare for a jump at the 2.30 metre mark.

The West German returned to the competition at the urging of his coach but Romania later protested that he had con-

travened the rules of competition by leaving the field during an event.

The protest was upheld today and Thraenhardt disqualified, which led to an immediate counter protest from the West Germans, who maintained that Thraenhardt's concentration had been broken when two runners collided behind him.

The appeals jury met again and rejected the West Germans

appeal but agreed to withdraw the disqualification. The West German was credited with 2.24 metres, his most successful effort before he left the arena.

This left him in eighth place, with Romanian Sorio Matei elevated to the bronze medal position.

In the three other finals decided in Sunday's first session, Soviet Oleg Sakirkin won the triple jump, Spaniard Reyes Sohrino triumphed in the women's three km walk and Ely van Hulst of the Netherlands raced away with the women's 3,000 metres.

Van Hulst clocked eight minutes 44.50 seconds, more than two seconds ahead of second-placed Vera Michalek of West Germany, with Briton Wendy Sly well back in third place.

Yesterday Sweden's Patrik Sjoeborg retained the European title with a leap of 2.39 metres but failed with three attempts at what would have been a world record 2.43 metres.

The long-haired Swede said later he had wanted his world

record back but was well satisfied with winning the gold.

"My third attempt was almost successful," Sjoeborg told reporters. "I was very close."

Britain's Linford Christie clocked 20.79 seconds in the 200 metres today to tie the second fastest time in the event this year.

Christie, who won yesterday's 60-metre dash, set his sights on Bruno Marie-Rose's world record as he geared up for the final later in the day.

France's Marie-Rose, who set the record of 20.36 at last year's championships in Lievin, is not competing in Budapest.

The men's 200 metres was one of 18 finals on a heavy last-day programme at the 10,000-seater Budapest Sports Hall.

Silke Moller, better known under her maiden name of Silke Gladisch, came close to breaking the world record in the semifinals of the women's 60-metre dash.

Muller's 7.04 seconds was just four hundredths of a second slower than the two-year-old record set by Nelli Cooman-Fiere of the Netherlands.



Iqbal Rizvi receives the trophy from Ashraf Khan

Starlite capture Kifco Trophy

STARLITE Cricket Club scored their first victory of the season against Evergreen in the final of the Kifco Trophy to emerge as champions at the KCL ground on Friday.

Evergreen, after having been put in to bat, opened their innings through Ejaz and Bader, who from the start showed little respect to the Starlite bowlers. A double hitting change saw Bader loft Ilyas only to be caught by Zager for 28.

Compile

Inam and Razzak were bowled by Sohail in quick succession but Shahbir along with Ejaz gave some respectability to the score. Both these batsmen were, however, out within 10 runs of each other.

Ejaz was bowled by Zia for 60 while Shahbir was soon after run out. At this stage Evergreen were 143 for five and in danger of being bowled out for a low score. A fighting partnership of 88 runs between G. Haider and Rafiq Butt enabled Evergreen to cross the 200 mark. Eventually Evergreen were able to compile 354 by the 43rd over. Rafiq Butt scored 55.

For Starlite, Qayyum bowled extremely well to claim three wickets for 24 while Sohail got three for 40.

Starlite began their reply through Iqbal Rizvi and Arshad

Shams. While Arshad seemed comfortable against the Evergreen attack, skipper Iqbal seemed to find things difficult and was ultimately bowled for 21.

Evergreen gave Starlite a scare when Rashid bowled Arif but Ilyas and Arshad took the score to 85 before Arshad was hit by Razzak for 52. Qayyum and Ilyas then started scoring in ones and twos and put on 92 runs before the latter was stumped for 57.

A 49-run partnership between Qayyum and Maqsood then took the game out of Evergreen's reach. Qayyum was out at 226 and soon after Starlite lost two more quick wickets.

Starlite were, however, not threatened by the loss of these quick wickets with Maqsood scoring freely. Maqsood remained unbeaten on 56 and Ilyas hit 57 as Starlite went past the Evergreen total in the 38th over.

Qayyum, who scored 45 after having three wickets, was named Man of the Match for his splendid performance.

Ashraf Khan, the general manager of Kifco gave away the prizes to both the teams at the end of the match. He praised the standard of the game but stressed on the need for a better display of sportsmanship.

Roma outlast Napoli

ROME, March 6. (Reuters) Italian champions Napoli suffered their second home defeat in a week when they lost 2-1 to a resurgent Roma today but closest rivals AC Milan failed to make the most of the League upset, being held 0-0 home by Verona.

Napoli, beaten 3-2, by Torino in the mid-week quarter-finals of the Italian Cup, failed to find their usual well-oiled rhythm despite the exhortations of Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona.

Napoli's defeat reduced their lead over AC Milan to four points while Roma closed up in third place with 29 points, two adrift of Milan. Sampdoria, who beat Pescara 2-1, were fourth with 26.

Giuseppe Giannini silenced the 75,000 Napoli fans with a calmly-executed goal in the 21st minute after the home defence had been caught napping by a

break through the midfield by Roma's West German striker Rudi Voller.

Maradona, top League scorer this season with 12 goals, had a good match but was repeatedly thwarted by Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi who had few problems in stopping his favourite set-piece free-kicks from the edge of the area.

Napoli fought back hard after the interval and narrowly missed scoring on several occasions but their vulnerability in defence showed in the 71st minute when Maradona's 31-year-old marker Emidio Oddi broke through to put Roma 2-0 ahead.

Brazilian striker Careca scored for Napoli 10 minutes later with a close-range shot but Roma held on in a tense finish.

The match had earlier been marred by the arrest of 20 Roma fans following skirmishes outside Napoli stadium.

Australia score 5th victory

SYDNEY, March 6. (Reuters) Australia's young cricketers continued to emulate the success of their World Cup winning seniors with a fifth win in a row when they crushed England in the World Youth Cup today.

A hard hit 89 by number three Stuart Law enabled Australia to reach 206 for seven off their 50 overs at Renmark and they then dismissed England for 146 with an over to spare.

Medium pace bowler Joe Scuderi took the last three wickets without conceding a run in his final over to finish with five for 27.

England have lost three of their five games and manager Tim Lamb admitted it would be difficult to progress past the preliminary rounds.

The England youngsters must win their final two matches and hope Sri Lanka, New Zealand and India, who are also vying for the fourth semifinal spot, fare badly in their remaining games.

At Loxton, in South Australia, Pakistan cruised to a seven wicket victory over New Zealand.

The Kiwis scored 198 for seven and Pakistan replied with 199 for three off just 46 overs.

Shane Thomson top-scored for the New Zealanders with 56 and Chris Cairns chimed in with hard-hits 34.

The pick of the Pakistani bowlers were Mushtaq Ahmed with three for 42 and Zulfiqar Butt who took two for 35.

But an opening 92-run partnership kept Pakistan well on target with Shahid Anwar scoring 51 and Basit Ali 47. An unbeaten fourth wicket partnership of 79 completed the task with Imzammil Haq

undefeated on 45 and Shahid Nawaz on 43.

Results: At Renmark — Australia 206 for seven in 50 overs, innings closed (S. Law 89, England 146 in 49 overs (C. Lewis 66, J. Scuderi five for 27). Australia by 60 runs.

At Loxton — New Zealand 198 for seven in 50 overs, innings closed (S. Thomson 56, M. Ahmed three for 42). Pakistan 199 for three in 46 overs (S. Anwar 51). Pakistan won by seven wickets.

At Merbein — West Indies 193 for six in 50 overs, innings closed (R. Jacobs 76, India 123 in 46 overs. West Indies won by 40 runs.

At Mildura — Sri Lanka 231 for seven in 50 overs, innings closed (S. Ranatunga 61, Ajith Alirajah 54, T. De Leede three for 41). International Cricket Conference Associates 184 for seven in 50 overs, innings closed (T. De Leede 49, C. Fernando three for 29). Sri Lanka won by 47 runs.

UCC brush aside SCE



Aftab: unbeaten 63

UNIVERSAL Cricket Club (UCC) scored a six-wicket victory over Salmiyah Combined Eleven (SCE) in a friendly match at the Salmiyah ground on Friday.

Salmiyah batted first and scored 139 in 30 overs. Basim and Ali took two wickets each while Sohail got one.

In reply, UCC went past the victory target in the 17th over. Aftab Butt was the top-scorer with an unbeaten 63. Ifukhar hit 21 and Asif 16.

Diamond sail past Qaddafi

DIAMOND Cricket Club beat Qaddafi Cricket Club by 150 runs in a friendly match at the Kuna ground on Friday.

Diamond, batting first, scored 218 for the loss of six wickets in their 25 allotted overs. Lancy was the top scorer with an unbeaten 77. The other scorers were Asghar 32, Afzal 23, Ejaz 19, Ajeeth 17, Liaquat Ali 11 and Tariq 10.

For Qaddafi, Javaid took two wickets while Mohammed, Naser, Khuzam got one each.

In reply, Qaddafi were all out for 68 runs. Naser scored 23. Liaquat Ali took three wickets while Tariq, Rovani and A bid got one each.

SPORTS BRIEFS

World Cup

MARRAKESH, Morocco, March 6. (Xinhua) — "The candidature of Morocco for staging the 1994 World Cup soccer finals is considered same as the candidature of Africa," declared M. Omar Seye, Gambian Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of the executive committee of the African Football Confederation (CAF) on his arrival Friday at Casablanca.

World record

MOSCOW, March 6. (Reuters) Alexander Popov of the Soviet Union cleaned and jerked 242.5 kilograms in set a world record in the 100 kg weightlifting category. Tass news agency reported today.

Zhao wins

NAOGAYA, Japan, March 6. (AP) China's Zhao Youfeng, competing in her second marathon, pulled away from favourite Carla Beurskens of the Netherlands in the last seven kilometres today and easily won the 88 Naogaya International women's marathon.

Oerli triumphs

ASPEN, Colorado, March 6. (AP) Swiss veteran Brigitte Oerli, assuming leadership by default in the absence of three injured teammates, put together a clean, controlled run yesterday to capture a weather-delayed women's World Cup downhill ski race and move into first place in the overall standings.

Formula One

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 6. (Reuters) — Three-time Formula One champion driver Nelson Piquet of Brazil said yesterday he is confident he can successfully defend his title in his new Lotus.

Speed skating

MOSCOW, March 6. (AP) Eric Flaim of the United States was declared the overall winner of the World Men's Speed Skating Championships today after finishing fourth in a 10,000-metre race that was won by Dutch skater Leo Visser, Tass said.

Unity crush Punjab for hockey final

UNITY Hockey Club beat Punjab Hockey Club 4-1 to move into the final of the Punjab Hockey Shield at the KOC hockey ground over the weekend. The final will be on March 15.

Unity went on to the attack from the start and scored three goals in the first seven minutes through Ifrikhar, Afra and Nasir.

Punjab got their only goal in the 17th minute of the second half off a short corner taken by Arif. Nasir scored his 2nd goal and Unity's fourth to seal Punjab's fate.

Place

In a second round match, Flying Arrows beat XI Brothers 1-0 for a place in the semifinal against Kuwait Al Hilal on Friday, at 4.00 pm.

Meanwhile, the draws for the Kuwait Al Hilal Cup were made on Friday. Unity, Punjab and Cosmos are in Group A while XI Brothers, Kuwait Independent, Flying Arrows and Al Hilal are in Group B.

On Friday, Cosmos meet Unity and XI Brothers face Kuwait Independent. Both the matches will be at 2.30 pm.

Jansher outplays Jahangir

MADRID, March 6. (Reuters) World champion Jansher Khan outthrew Jahangir Khan in a two-hour marathon to win the Spanish Open squash final 5-9-6-9-0 today.

Jansher, who toppled fellow-Pakistani Jahangir as the world's top-ranked player after beating him seven times in a row last year, reinforced his supremacy with a brilliant display of retrieving to take the \$7,000 first prize.

Jahangir started well and led throughout a first game that was full of long rallies down the side walls.

Pakistan bat first in opener

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 6. (Reuters) Pakistan won the toss and batted against the President's XI at Sabina Park today on the first day of the opening match of their tour of the West Indies.

Teams: Pakistan: Imran Khan (captain), Mudassar Nazar, Rameez Raja, Salim Malik, Javed Miandad, Ejaz Ahmed, Amir Malik, Salim Yusuf, Salim Jaffer, Naved Aqum, Tausseef Ahmed.

President's XI: Roger Harper (captain), Phil Simmons, Carlisle Best, Wayne Lewis, Keith Arthurton, Carl Hooper, Thelston Payne, David Williams, Winston Benjamin, Tony Gray, Ian Bishop.

Arsenal win

LONDON, March 6. (AP) Arsenal completed its second victory of the English soccer season over its north London rival, Tottenham Hotspur, today with a 2-1 victory at Highbury.

Alan Smith gave Arsenal a second minute lead and, although Clive Allen leveled in the 54th minute, Perry Groves bagged the winner with 15 minutes to go.

Fay reveals photos of America's Cup contender

LOS ANGELES, March 6. (Reuters) New Zealander Michael Fay revealed photographs of his America's Cup contender in Los Angeles as the yacht was due to be unveiled in New Zealand.

"This is the first time in the world anyone has seen the Kiwi challenger, including the Kiwis," Fay told members of the California Yacht Club at Marina Del Rey, 210 kms north of San Diego, last night.

Fay's boat — 90 feet at the waterline — is the biggest racing yacht the world has seen for 50 years. Named the New Zealander, it was due out of its Auckland shed at about the same time that Fay showed the photographs.

Costs The millionaire banker did not answer questions about the costs of the sloop that will take 40 crewmen, upto 6,000 square feet of spinnaker and 18,000 square feet of mainsail.

The New Zealander will be officially launched on March 27 before it is shipped to California to compete for the America's Cup against a contender from the

players. A perfect drop shot by Jansher put them level again at 6-6 and then he took the lead for the first time before stunning Jahangir with two low forehand drives to take the game.

The 16-year-old champion picked up the pace in the third and stormed ahead 5-0 in just six minutes and then 7-0 as Jahangir hit the tie.

Jahangir fought back to 7-5, but Jansher darted and dived around the court to win the game 9-6 and took just 17 minutes to snatch the last game.

Strikers edge BOC for semifinals

UNITED GOAN Strikers beat Boys Own Club (BOC) after a penalty shoot-out for a place in the semifinals of the Kuwait Malayalee Samajam Trophy soccer tournament, sponsored by Sana Household, at the Fahaed grounds on Friday.

The match went into a tie-breaker after the teams played to a 1-1 draw after normal and extra time with Joseph Salomo scoring for the Strikers and Mickey for BOC.

Winner

In the shoot-out, BOC scored three goals while Strikers got four. In another match, Vandana Sports beat Eleven Stars 1-0 to reach the quarterfinals. John D'Mello scored the only goal.

In the last game of the tournament on Friday, D'Assisi overcame Weekend Sports Club 1-0. The winner was scored by Saive Rebello in the 6th minute of the first half.

Schedule for March 11: Vaodana meet Royal Sporting at 6.30 am, New Goa take on D'Assisi Boys at 8.00 am and Konkani XI face Rising Boys at 9.30 am.

Rain hits 4th day of England match

WELLINGTON, March 6. (Reuters) The fourth day of the third and final cricket Test between New Zealand and England was abandoned after tea because of rain making it a certainty that the match and the series will be drawn.

Eoglad are 183 for two wickets with Mario Moxon on 81 and captain Mike Gatting on 33 in reply to New Zealand's 512 for six wickets declared.

With only one day's play remaining and a forecast of continuing rain, there is virtually no prospect of a result.

KT Club receives 45 entries for Kuwait International Rally

By Gail Seery

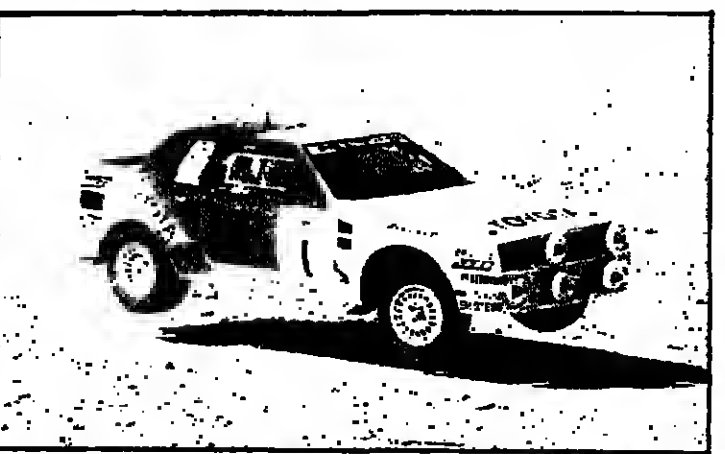
A TOTAL of 45 entries have been received by the organisers of this year's Kuwait International Rally. The deadline for entries was extended until Thursday evening to accommodate a team of three Bulgarian drivers who are hoping to travel to Kuwait to participate in this event, the 9th such rally organised by the KT Club.

The Bulgarians are currently investigating whether or not they will be able to transport their vehicles and clear customs in time for the rally start.

Organisers were confronted with a hitch when it was discovered that the scheduled start — 3 pm on Thursday, March 17, clashed with the timings of a televised football match. Wael Khnury, Clerk of the Course and chairman of the Organising Committee for the rally explained: "We have changed the timing to a 1 pm start in order to accommodate spectators, and to enable as much of the rally to be shown on live television as possible."

Route

This is the highlight of the Kuwait rally calendar, and is the first international event that the present Organising Committee has put together. In many ways the timing has been unsympathetic. They took office at the end of last year, and had to prepare the route in order to send details to Fisa by the end of December.



Bin Sulayem (left), in a Toyota Celica, and Saeed Al Hajri, in a Audi Quattro, will be aiming for a good finish.

This they did, and have been struggling against the clock to make this the best rally to date.

The team, which includes Wael Khnury, Joop Vis, Jack Labbat, Abdullah Barkawi, Jim Gildsworthy, Mansour Al Mulla and Geoff Clark, have introduced a series of innovations, some of which have come about simply as a result of examining the problem of how to organise a rally with fresh eyes.

The rally office opens at 4 pm on Saturday, March 12, at the Rally Headquarters, the SAS Hotel in Salwa. On Tuesday, March 15, all formalities will be completed. Final documentation will be at 10 am with the pre-event scrutineering to be held at the prestigious Al Zayani garage in Al Rai. This will start at 2 pm and it will be the first time that all the cars will be on show. The

same evening the competitors briefing will take place, at the SAS Hotel.

The timings for the rally day have now been altered slightly. Cars will have to be in the pre-start parc ferme by 11 am, and the first car, probably driven by Middle East champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem, will roll off the ramp at 1 pm.

The cars will then head for the Jahra area. The committee have selected three stages, Atrah, Khashaisat and Doha, all of which will be driven twice, with a break half-way through for service. These are the roughest stages of the rally, and Wael Khnury expects some of the less well-prepared teams and cars to break down on this leg. "The rally is a test of co-driver as well as driver, and in places, a test of the car," he told the Arab Times.



Bin Sulayem (left), in a Toyota Celica, and Saeed Al Hajri, in a Audi Quattro, will be aiming for a good finish.

The cars finish the first leg at around 9 pm on Thursday evening under the new timing — a positive advantage for crews and marshalls alike. This way they will at least get a good night's sleep.

Stages

Leg two timings have not been affected. The rally restarts from the SAS Hotel at 9 am, and the cars will drive out to the Maqwa and Sulabiya areas. There they will cover a further three stages three times apiece. The stages are East Sulabiya (stage 2 for the last local rally), Maqwa (stage 1 for the last local rally) and Sulabiya, which is a very fast stage of 27.78 km. The winning car is expected to arrive back at the SAS Hotel at 5.15, and the prize giving will be held later that evening.

The total distance covered is

627.40 km, of which 233.92 is driven over unmetalled special stages.

Main Control is at Entertainment City. Arab Times is printing the official programme for the event, and this will contain details of the best places to see the action, as well as the times of each stage start. Arab Times is also the official sponsor of the event.

Entries

The rally is likely to be one of the most exciting events of the season, with both Mohammed Bin Sulayem and Saeed Al Hajri aiming for a good finish. It is too early in the Championship for complacency overpoints, as even as apparently good lead like Al Hajri's last year turned out to be very vulnerable.

Saeed Al Hajri: Steve Bond, Audi Quattro; Mubarak Al Hajri: Abdul Wahid Abdul Haye, Opel Manta 400; Abbas Al

Mousawi/George Sourian, Peugeot Talbot; Michel Saleh, Audi Quattro; Sultan Al Sweidi/David Oryx, Toyota Celica; Khalifa Rashid/Hassan Sarhan, Toyota Celica; Nabil Amiri, Mohammed Bin Sulayem/Ronan Morgan, Toyota Celica Turbo; Younis Ali/Waleed Al Zafiri, Lada 1600; Saeed Ali, Lada 1600; Ahmed Al Helal/Fahad Al Rashid, Toyota Corolla; Saeed Al Shamari/Ahmed Al Edressi, Datsun Silvia; Ali Al Birami/Mohd. Zaid, Mitsubishi Lancer; Ahmed Al Nasser, Lancer Turbo; Samir Al Hussein/Doukhi Al Doukhi, Datsun 1600; Ali Al Edressi/Maslam Al Mutairi, Datsun 200SX; Sarkies Sorjayan/Audrey Sorjayan, Toyota Corolla; Hassan Al Hamad/Ahmed Al Hamdan, Mitsubishi Galant; Mohammed Al Hussein/Tharhim Al Mousa, Toyota Celica; Ahmed Al Mousa/Adnan Al Awad, Toyota Celica; Anwar Al Sayegh, Citroen Visa; Ibrahim Al Mousawi/Talal Al Anar, Datsun 1600; Ahmed Al Mulla/Jassim Al Harbi, Holden; Josef Miskulung/Klaus Shwingens-shloeg, Nissan 240RS; Muntaz Shah/Margaret Callow, Toyota Celica; Faez Chibab/Hassan Al Shanteer, Lancer; Michael Allen/Martin Phillips, Volvo 240; Lester Featherstone/Luke Allen, Volvo 240; Peter Freisenegger/Samir Koukoe, VW Beetle; Khazimes Al Khazimes/Abdul Latif, Datsun 180; Nori Al Nasawi/Ahmed Al Shaboun, Nissan Silvia; Foad Al Anjar/Anjar Qutineh, Nissan GT; Abdul Razaq Al Khames/Saudi Al Rashid, Stellar; Jamal Marafi/Adnan Marafi, Nissan Patrol; Ed Falah/Sadeq Ashkanani, Range Rover; Mubarak Al Omairi/Jamal Ibrahim, Fiat Ghazi Al Zafiri/Saeed Al Zafiri, Suzuki; Saeed Al Muaidi/Mahmud Delaimy, Datsun Silvia; Mohammed Jara/George Reyes, Toyota Corolla; Abdullah Al Shuwaimi/Anwar Abu Jarwa, Mitsubishi Starion; Feroz Horn/Marc Horn, Mazda 323; Khalid Al Shomari, Suzuki jeep; Tareq Al Wazzan/Khaled Khalifa, Range Rover; Ahmed Al Zafiri/Abdul Rahman Al Shumari, Opel Ascona; Jassim Bin Hay/Hani Al Asari, Datsun 1600.

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